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Peres to make first official visit by Israeli minister to Jordan

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres will be the first representative of the Israeli government to visit Jordan - at least officially - when he meets with Jordanian Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the Jordanian side of the Arava next Wednesday.

Peres formally announced the July 20 meeting to the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee yesterday.

He said the bilateral talks between Israel and Jordan will begin on Monday, in a tent at Ein Evrona, on the Israeli side of the Arava, about 15 kilometers north of Eilat.

But on the 20th, "there will be a meeting of the foreign ministers of Jordan, the United States and Israel on the other side of the border, in a place less romantic than a tent," Peres said.

The trilateral talks will deal with economic projects, including wa-

ter ventures, a highway linking Egypt, Israel and Jordan, a canal linking the Red Sea and the Dead Sea, and joint tourism enterprises, he said.

Bilateral talks are expected to focus on border demarcation, water and other issues.

Peres told the committee Christopher could help advance the talks between Israel and Jordan during his visit to the region. Christopher is due to arrive Sunday.

DAN IZENBERG
and DAVID MAKOVSKY

According to Peres, Jordan agreed to hold public talks with Israel after realizing that the Israel-PLO accord was a fait accompli and that progress in the negotiations between Israel and Syria was uncertain.

"Therefore, they reached the conclusion that they should conduct talks with us on economic projects, in the meantime," a participant who briefed reporters after the meeting quoted Peres as saying.

Jordan is demanding the return of approximately 360 sq. km. in the Arava, and a much smaller area in the Jordan Valley. Israel does not dispute the Jordanian claim but seeks a "creative solution" because it has laid underground water pipes in the area.

Peres said Israel and Jordan would reach a settlement "that will pleasantly surprise even Ariel Sharon."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reacted favorably to a statement made by King Hussein over the weekend declaring that he was willing to meet the Israeli premier. "I welcome the statement," Rabin told reporters. "I will welcome the meeting."

Douglas Davis adds from London:

A prominent political source in Amman told the London-based newsletter *Mideast Mirror* that Is-

rael has already agreed to return to Jordan all the territory under dispute.

But next week's talks, the source said, would focus on technical matters - water rights and the environment - rather than on the principle of Israel's territorial withdrawal.

He said Jordan preferred to keep the talks on a technical level "so as... not to appear as though we are going it alone, like the PLO did."



The scene at the Nablus house after yesterday's siege.

Two Hamas terrorists killed in Nablus siege

ALON PINKAS, BILL HUTMAN and film

UNDERCOVER army units and General Security Service agents killed two wanted Hamas members in Nablus yesterday morning, following months of pursuit.

The two, Ali Osman Muhammad Atsai, 30, and Bashar Amuddi, 27, believed to be Atsai's assistant, were on the GSS's wanted list for over a year and their liquidation - after they barricaded themselves in a Nablus apartment - was described by Nablus area commander Col. Tal as "a great success."

Clashes broke out last night in Nablus after the operation was completed, but there were no reports of injuries.

The two were tracked down in Nablus by Duvdevan undercover soldiers who were given information on Atsai's whereabouts from the GSS.

A curfew was imposed on Nablus as the two barricaded themselves in an apartment. In the ensuing exchange of fire, Atsai, originally from the Kalkiya area, and Amuddi, from Nablus, were killed. Amuddi was previously jailed for helping enlist youth into Hamas, but was freed after completing his term.

Palestinian sources said late Sunday night undercover soldiers surrounded the terrorists' hideout in a home in Nablus's casbah section. Security personnel called on the terrorists to surrender, and on anyone else in the house to come out. Palestinian sources said.

Just before dawn yesterday, security forces opened fire on the house. Anti-tank missiles were also used, destroying the building, according to the sources.

Several other buildings around their hideout - the home of the Kherzoula family - were also destroyed in the gun battle. Ali Akashi, a Palestinian resident of the casbah, told Israel Radio an army officer ordered him to pull the bodies out of the apartment.

"The two dead men were here in the middle of the house," he said. "I said 'I can't, there is a step here.' He (the officer) said 'Take this rope, tie their legs and drag them.'"

Atsai and Amuddi, both members of Izzadin Kassam, Hamas's military arm, were thought involved in the murders of IDF soldiers Lev Pisachov and David Tomer last August in Deir Balut in Samaria and Zippora Sasson's murder near Ariel in February.

They are also allegedly connected to the failed attempt to plant a car bomb in Ramat Efraim in November 1992, laying roadside bombs near the village of Zawiya and the planting of a roadside bomb in the army range near Rosh Ha'ayin last January, which wounded Corp. Maya David seriously and moderately wounded another soldier.

Commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria, Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz and Col. Tal were in charge of the operation. Atsai, according to security sources, was considered a member of the hard core of wanted Hamas members on the GSS list. Army sources say there are currently less than 20 Hamas members on the "most wanted list" but the organization demonstrated resilience in the past and the number can either go up or the list could change.

The GSS Sunday arrested Saadi Jaaber Garbeli, 48, suspected of killing David Mishali in Tel Aviv on June 26.

Garbeli was a former collaborator from Gaza who resided in Tel Aviv in an apartment given to him by Israeli authorities. He killed Mishali, he admitted to his GSS operator in a phone call, so "I can clear my name as a collaborator after Hamas threatened my life."

Members of Mishali's family in Yokneam had a bittersweet reaction to news Garbeli had been apprehended. "We were happy but sad to hear the news, because even this murderer cannot bring David back to life," said his sister, Rachel.

Settlers leave apartments after Ben-Eliezer agrees to consider their demands

HERB KEINON

THE standoff between the government and settlers over the Ashmarot Yitzhak neighborhood, in Kiryat Arba, was defused for a week yesterday, as settlers left the apartments they had occupied and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer agreed to look into the settlement's requests for development.

"I heard a long list of requests for housing in Kiryat Arba, and also additions to the community center, problems facing young couples and request for rental apartments," Ben-Eliezer said after the meeting. "I heard everything and will invite them back on Monday at 4 p.m. with answers, after I have consulted with everyone involved."

Ben-Eliezer said that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will be among those consulted. He said

the prime minister was involved in the compromise solution brokered Sunday night by President Ezer Weizman, whereby the settlers agreed to leave the apartments by noon yesterday, after which their representatives would meet with Ben-Eliezer.

The 15 apartments in the neighborhood, occupied as a response to Thursday night's terrorist murder of Kiryat Arba resident Sarit Prigal, were cleaned and vacated. Four hours later, leaders of the settlement - including local council head Zvi Katzover, and former MKs Gula Cohen and Rabbi Eliezer Waldman - met with Ben-Eliezer in his Jerusalem office.

"What I see here is a victory of law and order," Ben-Eliezer said. "We dealt with the issue immedi-

ately, didn't let it drag on, and stood by our demand that the homes first be evacuated."

Ben-Eliezer said the government would have okayed using force against the squatters if they had not evacuated the apartments.

Katzover said after the meeting that "Ben-Eliezer declared unequivocally that he is the housing minister of all Israel, and will check into our requests and give us an answer. I have a feeling our requests fell on receptive ears."

He said the families who moved out of the apartments yesterday should now wait a week for Ben-Eliezer's answer before deciding on their next moves. "Be patient," Katzover advised the squatters. "Next week we will be

wiser, and afterwards know exactly what to do."

David Vilder, one of the dozens of Kiryat Arba residents who moved into the apartments, said the incident has "helped people understand the kinds of pressure we are under, and the kind of repression we are feeling from the government."

Vilder said it appears Ben-Eliezer will give Kiryat Arba something, "which he hasn't done in the last two years. This incident probably accomplished a lot; it is just sad it had to come to this."

Peace Now, meanwhile, called on Ben-Eliezer yesterday not to give in to "settler extortion." "Whoever breaks the law should be arrested, brought before a judge, and placed behind bars," a spokeswoman said. "They should not be given a prize."

Knesset threatens to reject pension recommendations

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset will not approve the Fogel Committee's pension reforms unless the government makes pension mandatory, the Knesset labor and social affairs committee threatened yesterday.

At present, joining a pension plan is strictly voluntary, and the Fogel Committee, headed by Treasury Director-General Aharon Fogel, said it saw no reason to change this, since the National Insurance Institute pays all senior citizens a subsistence allowance.

MKS from across the political spectrum said this was unacceptable, however, because the result is that many senior citizens exist solely on their NII allowance - which, at about NIS 900 a month, is far too little to live on.

Only about 500,000 workers currently have comprehensive pension coverage. About 900,000 workers have no coverage.

"It will be very difficult for most MKs to enact the ancillary legislation [required by the Fogel plan] if it does not accompany a mandatory pension law," said committee chairman Amir Peretz (Labor).

"No ancillary legislation will pass the Knesset if a national pension law isn't passed," agreed David Mena (Likud).

Several of the MKs, however - such as Peretz and Michael Eitan (Likud) - agreed that the mandatory pension should be minimal. Some of the MKs also attacked the Fogel Committee for trying to solve the funds' past failures at the

expense of new members. The plan calls for employees' pension contributions to be increased from 17.5% to 18.5%-21%.

In addition, the government will continue to subsidize the funds by allowing them to invest in special bonds bearing a 5.5% interest rate. This is considerably higher than the market rate, and, according to the Fogel Report, will translate into a subsidy of some NIS 3 billion a year - up from NIS 900 million a year currently. This money will ultimately come from the taxpayer.

Eitan said this subsidy will total some NIS 100 billion over the lifetime of the plan if interest rates stay the same, and could total as much as NIS 250b. if interest rates drop, thereby increasing the differential between market rates and what the government pays.

A third issue that aroused fierce opposition from many MKs was the Fogel Report's recommendation that women start receiving pensions only at age 65, instead of at age 60, as now. Permitting early retirement for women costs the funds some NIS 50 million a year, Fogel told the committee.

However, MKs such as Golan and Ya'acov Shefi (Labor) noted that encouraging early retirement for women also opens up more jobs for younger people. Fogel, however, warned that if his plan was not adopted, the result would be an immediate collapse of the pension funds, whose actuarial deficit totals some NIS 36b.

Haiti's government orders out UN mission

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) - The army-dominated government yesterday ordered all human rights observers from the United Nations and the Organization of American States to leave Haiti.

Dante Caputo, the special UN envoy for Haiti, said the monitors had been given 48 hours to leave the Caribbean country by the ministry of foreign affairs. He said the verbal order was delivered at 9 a.m. and included the warning that the army would enforce the expulsion if necessary.

"I consider this an outrageous decision. More than that, it is an insult to the international community. They kill, they murder and rape people and they do not want any witnesses," Private Radio Metropole broadcast what it said was the official government statement.

"By its irregular presence on national soil, the mission is troubling internal public order and threatens state security," the statement said. The government declared the observers undesirable aliens, telling them to get out within 48 hours, and said law enforcement officials had been notified. Caputo said it was a "very, very delicate situation as far as security is concerned" for the monitors.

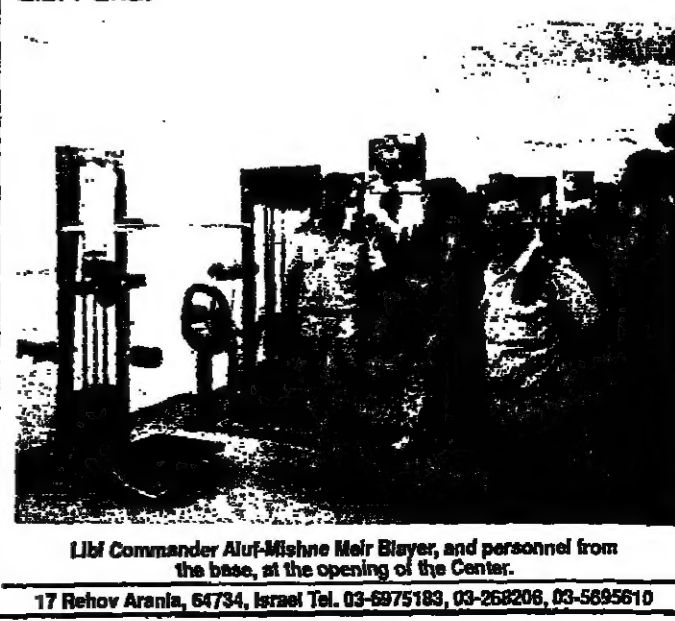
There are 40 UN observers and 64 OAS observers in Haiti. The joint mission was sent in February 1993 to investigate human rights abuses by Haiti's military and its right-wing supporters. The expulsion order came as the US was massing additional warships and 2,000 more Marines just off Haiti's shores.

"LIBI" - THE FUND FOR STRENGTHENING ISRAEL'S DEFENSE

Physical Fitness Center for Navy's Haifa Base

A physical fitness and sports center was recently opened at the naval base in Haifa, for the use of trainees and the instructional staff.

The center was funded from a legacy received from the Braunstein family, and handled by the Libi Fund.



Libi Commander Aluf-Mishne Meir Blayer, and personnel from the base, at the opening of the center.
17 Rehov Aranya, 64734, Israel Tel. 03-6975193, 03-268208, 03-5695610

IDF to lift closure of Gaza Strip

THE IDF said it was going to open the Erez checkpoint between the Gaza Strip and Israel at midnight last night after a 24-hour closure.

The closure, which followed clashes at the checkpoint, prevented some 15,000 Gazans from going to jobs in Israel yesterday.



12071005

Navy patrol kills two frogmen, wounds third off Rosh Hanikra

IAF hits Hizbullah targets in Bekaa Valley

THE crew of a navy patrol boat shot dead two frogmen and wounded a third off Rosh Hanikra late Sunday night, and air force jets struck Hizbullah targets in the Bekaa Valley.

At approximately 11 p.m. Sunday night an IDF observation post in the western sector of the security zone in south Lebanon reported suspicious movement off the coast, information confirmed by Navy radar aboard vessels in the area.

A Navy 'Dvora' class patrol boat engaged three frogmen as they were about to swim across the border near

Rosh Hanikra. The sailors shot dead two frogmen and apparently wounded another.

Yesterday morning two bodies were fished out of the water. Military sources said they were armed, and documents found indicate that they belonged to George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Yesterday afternoon, the air force struck Hizbullah targets in Summur and Ein-el Tineh villages in the Be-

ALON PINKAS

kaa Valley in east Lebanon. The area is generally under Syrian control and is covered by Syrian radar. Syrian army units are deployed as close as five kilometers north of Summur, which lies approximately 12 kilometers east of the security zone.

Syria on Monday accused Israel of deliberately heating up hostilities in Lebanon to foil Christopher's visit and impede the three-year-old peace process.

"Whoever wants peace should not

launch daily aggressions on a sovereign state (Lebanon) that is a member of the United Nations," state-run Damascus radio said in a commentary.

Army sources in Tel Aviv yesterday said that they expect the level of violence in Lebanon to decrease as the visit of US Secretary of State Warren Christopher nears.

"It is a pattern to which we have become accustomed. Whenever Christopher comes to the region, the Syrians find ways to suppress Hizbullah activities," said a senior army source last night.

Arafat heads home to Gaza

News agencies

PLO leader Yasser Arafat yesterday left Tunisia, host of the PLO for 12 years, and headed for a permanent home in the Palestinian self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho.

Before leaving, Arafat met Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, who is in Tunisia to represent Israel at Middle East multilateral talks due to start in the northern city of Tabarka today.

Arafat and Beilin discussed the importance of expanding self-rule to the entire West Bank. PLO officials said Tunisia, which hosted the PLO headquarters after it was ejected from Lebanon in 1982 by the Israeli army, gave Arafat a farewell befitting a head of state.

"Goodbyes are always moving. Nonetheless our goodbyes today are marked by the happiness of your return to the fatherland. Now, by the grace of God, there will be no more wandering, no more exile..." Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali said.

"For the first time, there is a departure but without being refugees," Arafat told journalists, stressing the contrast between Monday's formal ceremonies and the often forced departures that the PLO has had to make in the past.

"We will continue this struggle until the Palestinian flag will fly over all the Palestinian land and an independent Palestinian state is set up with Jerusalem as its capital," Arafat told the crowd at Tunisia's presidential palace.

"It is a difficult battle," he conceded.

Arafat left Tunis aboard a Tunisian plane along with his wife Suha and some unnamed PLO officials for Egypt, from where they will leave for Gaza.

Contrary to expectation, PLO executive committee members Yasser Abed-Rabbo and Samir Ghoshe were not seen boarding Arafat's plane.

Ghoshe's spokesman Ahmed Magdalani said Ghoshe canceled his trip at the last minute due to a disagreement with Arafat on who among the exiled leaders should return first to the self-rule areas.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, eight of hearts, king of diamonds and ten of clubs.

Mubarak: Breakthrough with Syrians not in sight

ELDAD BECK

PARIS

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak said yesterday that despite progress achieved in the peace negotiations between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians, a breakthrough in the talks with Syria will not be reached soon.

"The peace process is moving forward although there are problems and complications every now and then," Mubarak said. "Negotiations will continue but it will take some more time with the Syrians."

However, Mubarak emphasized that both Syria and Israel want peace, and that there is no way out of the Middle East peace process.

Mubarak spoke after meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace to discuss international aid to the Palestinian Authority.

Mubarak also appealed for urgent financial support for the new Palestinian Authority, saying the Palestinians must get financial help as soon as possible in order "to build their structure."

Mitterrand said he would do all he could to convince the international political and financial institutions of the urgent need to help the Palestinians.

Mubarak said he had no fixed date for his next meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad, but suggested that the summit would be held before or during US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East.

"I shall call him [Assad] after my return to the Middle East and we shall see together when we can meet," said Mubarak.

Senate bill could delay Palestinian funding

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

THE Senate is poised this week to formally tie US funding for the Palestinians to PLO revocation of portions of its covenant calling for Israel's destruction.

Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania) will introduce an amendment in the next few days that compels the PLO to "actually amend" its covenant within one year as a condition for receiving any of the \$500 million the US has pledged to the Palestinians for infrastructure needs.

The administration is seeking to modify the amendment out of concern that it would tie President Clinton's hands on this matter. Under current law, the White House may authorize the flow of aid on the basis of a US national interest, even if the PLO is found to be in violation of commitments it made under the Oslo accords last summer.

"This amendment will give Congress the ability to ensure that these funds are not spent for the benefit of the PLO without real compliance with the terms of the peace accords," Specter wrote his colleagues last week, urging their support.

A Specter aide predicted yesterday that the amendment will pass with "a great deal of additional support" later in the week.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat announced last week in Paris that he would soon convene the Palestinian National Council to discuss changes in the organization's covenant. However, it could not be determined whether his statement was tied to concerns over the impending Senate move.

Khalil Jahshan, the executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans who is a liaison to Arafat on congressional matters, said yesterday that the PLO would likely view the amendment as a "diktat" meant "to undermine Arafat."

The Specter amendment would, in three ways, affect laws instituted following September's Israeli-PLO accord by restricting President Clinton's ability to transfer funds to the PLO.

● He could not override, on the basis of "national interest," any congressional hold on funds to the PLO.

● Congress could overturn the administration's finding that the PLO is complying with the demands of the law, which includes its renouncing and refraining from terror.

● The PLO must first amend its covenant urging Israel's liquidation - not merely submit "proposed changes to the Palestinian National Council."

Peres: North Korean arms sale aborted

DAN ZENBERG

A REPORTED sale of missiles to Syria and Iran by North Korea was aborted at the last minute, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee yesterday.

"North Korea denied sending missiles to Syria and Iran," said Peres. "The deal apparently did not go through at the last minute."

Peres said that even though the sale

was canceled, the government took the threat of North Korean arms sales to the Middle East seriously. Israel preferred to let the US take the lead in this campaign, said Peres, but was "a very active and sensitive partner."

Peres said that although the negotiations between North and South Korea had been suspended after the death of Kim Il Sung, the US had not lifted the threat of sanctions against Pyongyang.

Cypriot president arrives here

News agencies

CYPRIOT President Glafcos Clerides arrived at Haifa port aboard his private yacht yesterday for the first visit to Israel by a Cypriot president.

Speaking to reporters before his departure from Cyprus yesterday, Clerides said Cypriot-Israeli relations "have always been good and friendly."

Clerides's three-day visit has been described as unofficial, even though he is expected to meet today with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. President Ezer Weizman is to host him for lunch today.

Israel denies diverting water

Jerusalem Post Staff

ISRAEL formally denied allegations yesterday at the United Nations that it is diverting water from Lebanese territory, as was charged in a May report by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, a group comprised of 12 Arab nations and the PLO.

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali ordered an investigation into the ESCWA charges on June 2.

Yesterday, UN Ambassador Gad Ya'acobi denied the charges to UN Under-Secretary for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding, saying he was "bewildered" by Boutros-Ghali's order.

Ya'acobi referred to repeated UN-ILF investigations, the latest on July 24, 1990, which have found no evidence of water diversion from Lebanon into Israel.



Zambian President Frederick J.T. Chiluba (left) is welcomed by President Ezer Weizman and other senior officers at an IDF honor guard ceremony yesterday. Chiluba also met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday, when he announced that Zambia would renew the technical partnership with Israel that existed between the two countries in the 1960s. Chiluba, who is visiting the country with an array of ministers and other top aides, told the premier that Zambia would like to gain Israeli agricultural and health expertise. After lunching together, the two leaders signed an agreement pledging cooperation in these fields.

(Text: David Makovsky; Photo: Brian Hendler)

Magen: Rabin must explain Sheves's role in Deri case

BILL HUTMAN

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin must explain the intervention of his top aide, Shimon Sheves, in the Deri case, Knesset state control committee chairman David Magen (Likud) said yesterday.

Magen was speaking at the committee's first meeting since the publication of the controller's hard-hitting report on allegations of political intervention in the police investigation of MK Aryeh Deri (Shas).

Rabin is to be called before the committee soon to answer questions about Sheves's alleged intervention which was uncovered in the report, Magen said. Sheves serves as the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

The report showed, on the basis of Sheves's own testimony, that he asked then police inspector-general Ya'acov Terner to change the head of the investigating team responsible for the Deri case.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, meanwhile, told the committee that politicians try to influence decisions on the appointments of top ranking police officers.

Shahal, added, however, that he has resisted the attempts, and that a police officer's chances of promotion may even be hurt by political figures speaking in his favor. "We will not allow the appointment process to become politicized," Shahal said.

The minister outlined the regulations governing the appointment of senior officers, for which he is ultimately responsible. He said he had toughened the regulations in an effort to make the decision as professional as possible.

GSS head taking study leave, PM's office announces

ALON PINKAS

THE head of the General Security Service, whose name is formally a state secret, will soon take a three-month academic leave, after which he will return to complete his seventh year at the post, the Prime Minister's Office announced yesterday.

The announcement, as expected, did not name the temporary replacement, a detail which could reveal the identity of the apparent successor expected to be named this winter.

The announcement was unprecedented, given that all activities and career moves of the GSS (and Mossad) chiefs are officially kept secret. The Prime Minister's Office, which oversees the GSS and the Mossad, said the GSS chief will leave for a "short period," and return to complete his term, which was extended by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last April.

He will go on academic leave to the US, as several IDF generals have done before him, the announcement said.

Last April, the current head of the GSS completed his sixth year at the helm.

In 1992, Maj.-Gen. (res.) Rafael Vardi recommended in a report that terms for GSS and Mossad chiefs be limited to four years, with a possible extension of one year.

Unlike his predecessors, the current GSS head did not appoint a deputy, thus keeping all branch heads (who are equivalent to IDF General Staff major-generals) at arm's length. He apparently wanted to appoint a deputy, thus ordaining him as his choice for his successor, but was eventually dissuaded from doing so by internal pressures.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Heroin seized, six held in two drug busts

More than 20 kg. of heroin were seized and six suspects arrested in two separate drug busts in the Galilee last week.

On Thursday, police searched a car and found more than 10 kg. of heroin. Four suspects in the car were arrested and remanded for periods of up to 15 days by Acre Magistrates Court. In the other incident, more than 10 kg. of heroin and more than a kilo of hashish were seized in a search of a car in the north at the end of June.

Sewage funds provided for Beduin towns

Twelve million shekels have been approved by the Interior Ministry for the planning of sewage systems in the seven Beduin towns in the Negev - Rahat, Tel Sheva, Lakiya, Hura, Kuseifa, Arsur and Sagesh Shalom.

Amir Rozenblit

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Friday, July 29

Friday, August 26

From 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ENTRANCE FREE - SEE YOU THERE!

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother

ELSE GRUNEBaum

The funeral took place yesterday, Monday, July 11, 1994 in Ra'anana

Mourned by her daughters:
Lorraine, and Michael Solomon (Ra'anana)
Mickey, and Maurice Meyer (South Africa)
and families

Shiva at 9/2 Ravutsky St., Ra'anana.

In deep sorrow we announce the passing in New York of

LEON RAFALOWICZ ז"ל

on July 6, 1994 (28 Tammuz 5754).

Sadly missed by his family in Israel.
The Rafaely Family, Tel Aviv
The Menn Family, Tel Aviv
The Rafaely Family, Beersheva

Dear Jack, Genia, Malkale and Children
We share, in deep sorrow, the great, untimely loss of your beloved

MOSHE HORN ז"ל

The Tiefenbrunn Family

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of

HENRY MAZER ז"ל

(formerly of Boston)
The funeral was held on Monday, July 11, 1994, in Beersheva.
Wife: Esther

Daughters: Myra and Sarah and Families
Shiva at Mazer residence, 8 Lea Goldberg St., Beersheva.

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Health Minister Ephraim Sneh signs the smoking ban. (Avi Hayoun)

Israel Radio chief regrets Ramallah transmitter going to Voice of Palestine

LIAT COLLINS

THE Voice of Israel's Arabic-language service is fighting the Voice of Palestine for air waves given to the new station by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni.

The Palestinian Authority received the Ramallah transmitter's 675 AM frequency for the station earlier this week.

"We're only hurting ourselves," said Edmond Sabaik, head of Israel Radio's Arabic language broadcasts. "We're meant to broadcast to the Arabic-speaking population in Israel and Arab states. Now we're left without a backup transmitter even though our main transmitter is old and not capable of sustained broadcasts," Sabaik said during a radio interview.

He said the ministry had originally given the Palestinian Authority the 702 AM frequency that the Voice of Israel had used.

This frequency was frequently jammed by anti-Israel propaganda from Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front pirate station broadcasting from Lebanon. After a few days of Voice of Palestine broadcasts, Jibril started broadcasting anti-PLO threats on the same frequency, and the Commu-

nications Ministry gave them the Ramallah transmitter's frequency instead.

"The Communications Ministry decided to solve a problem between the Voice of Palestine and Jibril's Popular Front by giving them our frequency," Sabaik charged.

The Communications Ministry released a statement saying: "The Voice of Israel in Arabic is broadcasts from three sites. The main transmitter on the 738 AM frequency is 24 times stronger than the Ramallah transmitter. The Communications Minister in consultation with security forces decided to grant the Palestinian Authority the Ramallah frequency as obliged by the Cairo Agreement."

"The Voice of Israel's Arabic-speaking listeners will continue to receive broadcasts all over including in Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo and other places. It should be noted that the Ramallah broadcasting station and transmitters were taken over by Israel in 1967 and are meant to be transferred to the Palestinian Authority when its jurisdiction is increased beyond the Gaza and Jericho borders."

No smoking - Sneh signs order for country's 60,000 workplaces

Ban goes into effect for one year on October 11

JUDY SIEGEL

HEALTH Minister Ephraim Sneh yesterday signed an amendment that will restrict smoking in the country's 60,000 workplaces - from the neighborhood kiosk to all IDF installations and the cabinet room.

The amendment, which will make Israel's anti-smoking law one of the strictest in the world, goes into effect for a year starting October 11. The amendment adds "all workplaces" to the 1983 law listing 14 public places where smoking is already prohibited, including taxis, cinemas, sports halls, medical clinics and elevators.

Under the new regulations, employers must require smokers to go outdoors for cigarette breaks or set up closed but well-ventilated "smoking rooms." A manager with his or her own office can light up there, but if a non-smoker who comes in for a meeting objects, the smoker must extinguish the cigarette. A room in which all those working there smoke can be considered a smoking room. The effect of the law will be assessed after a year, Sneh said.

Sneh, a physician, said at the informal signing ceremony in his Jerusalem office that the measure - passed unanimously in February by the Knesset labor and social affairs committee - is "not meant to persecute smokers or even to force them to give up smoking."

But incontrovertible evidence from

medical studies shows that passive smoking (non-smokers inhaling their neighbors' smoke) significantly increases the risk for cardiovascular diseases and especially lung cancer.

"The risk for lung cancer is twice as high in a passive smoker as it is for everyone else," Sneh asserted. "We have to protect people in the workplace who don't want to face this risk." In addition to the 5,000 smokers who die of tobacco-related diseases each year in Israel, some 800 non-smokers die as a result of passive smoking, he said.

The minister said he had no plans at present to allocate funds for public-service announcements on TV and radio to promote observance of the law, but added: "We will do other things."

Asked whether he would allow Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other smoking ministers to light up in the cabinet room - Sneh would only say: "We will work this out."

Rabin, as acting health minister, refused to sign the amendment into law, arguing that as a chain-smoker, he would feel hypocritical about doing so.

The health minister was lauded by Dr. Alma Avni, head of the ministry's occupational health unit, for making the signing one of his first acts in

office. "It's a big day for the State of Israel and for the health of its citizens," she said.

She immediately sent a letter to employers at the country's major workplaces, inviting them to call for assistance (02-254893) if they have any difficulty implementing the new law. Once the law goes into effect, Employees complaining that their workplace is disregarding the law can call the same number.

Ran Rahav, the spokesman of the tobacco monopoly Dubeq, refused to comment on the signing of the law, or to predict whether it would harm cigarette sales.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who suffered a heart attack a decade ago but has resumed smoking, said yesterday that he would "not smoke in areas where it is prohibited." Sarid has made a point of not being photographed smoking.

But Science and Arts Minister Shulamit Aloni, another heart attack victim who continues to smoke publicly, criticized the bill in an interview with Israel Radio.

Aloni said that while her comments were "not educational," she did not support "persecution" of the individual and was not convinced that she was either "addicted to nicotine" or that her heart attack was due to her smoking. She has no intention of stopping, she said.

Sympathetic voice on the phone may be President Weizman calling

JUDY SIEGEL

DON'T be surprised if, after writing a worried letter to President Ezer Weizman about the "risks" of granting the Palestinians autonomy you get a personal call from the president to discuss your fears.

Weizman disclosed this at the first session of the four-day "Help & Hope" conference of the International Federation of Telephone Emergency Services (IFOTES). "I suppose you can call me an honorary member of Eran [the local Emotional First Aid service]," the president told the 500 delegates from 20 countries meeting at the Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel.

The president explained that he gets 400 to 500 letters at Beit Hanassi each month. During the past year, he said, some of them have been from people fearful of the peace agreement. "They wonder whether we are selling out our future," Weizman said. Instead of writing them, Weizman decided to call some of his correspondents personally. He did not reveal what he told them or whether he managed to alleviate their fears.

Homosexuals get forest plaque after 15-year battle with JNF

AMIR ROZENBLIT

AFTER a 15-year battle, the Jewish National Fund and a local gay rights group will erect a plaque next Thursday at the Lahav Forest in the Negev to mark the site where 3,000 trees purchased with funds donated by homosexuals were planted.

The grove was planted in 1979 by the JNF during the fourth World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations. The JNF canceled the formal ceremony planned that year to erect a plaque with the donor's name, reportedly fearing it would lose large donations from Orthodox Jews.

negotiated with the JNF over the issue for years, but no decision was reached. Three years ago, an Israeli organization, the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights for Gay Men, Lesbians and Bisexuals in Israel (SPPR), became involved and began pressuring the JNF to unveil a plaque.

A year ago a modest sign was put up, but the SPPR discovered last month that it had disappeared. Liora Moriel, an SPPR representative, said it was then agreed with the JNF to have a plaque made, which would be erected during a formal ceremony.

Jewish homosexual organizations

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Bosnian Moslems back truce effort

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Bosnian Moslem Vice-President Ejup Ganic gave his backing yesterday to a renewal of a tattered month-long truce which has just expired.

"We will finish this job," Ganic said of efforts to renew a ceasefire, intended to pave the way to a lasting peace, but which has been violated by Moslems and Serbs.

The move came as Bosnian rivals faced a choice whether to accept a major powers-sponsored, last-ditch peace plan this week or risk worse fighting and tougher international sanctions.

The warning was underlined by the world's richest states at the Group of Seven summit in Naples at the weekend.

The United Nations reported heavy shelling in clashes between Serbs and Moslems on key battle lines in north central Bosnia and more fighting in the northwestern Bihać enclave.

The Serbs have already indicated they will support a renewal of the ceasefire agreed in Geneva on June 8 and which came into force two days later.

United Nations spokeswoman Claire Grimes told reporters in Sarajevo that UN special envoy Yasushi Akashi, who has been negotiating to extend the truce over the last few days, would pursue his efforts today.

"We have indications both sides will agree in principle to an extension of the June 8 agreement and to that effect Mr Akashi will continue negotiations including a meeting tomorrow with Mr

Ganic," Grimes said.

"We're not looking for a signed agreement right now, we're looking for a confirmed verbal agreement. Mr Akashi is hoping that both sides will continue to honor the spirit of the June 8 accord."

Ganic told a news conference that the truce agreement would include a pledge from the UN to do everything in its power to stop "ethnic cleansing" of minority Moslems and Croats in the Serb-held northern Banja Luka area.

Grimes said Akashi had been trying to visit Banja Luka for months but had been prevented from doing so by the Bosnian Serbs who would not undertake to guarantee his safety.

"We're hoping a visit will take place in the future and also that we'll be able to open a civil affairs office and introduce a number of civilian policemen," Grimes said.

Pressed on why Akashi had not made the visit earlier, Grimes said: "He's been asking for a guarantee to go to Banja Luka and he's now carrying on with those talks."

UN officials and aid workers have for months been reporting a sustained campaign of killings, violence and other harassment aimed at driving Moslems and Croats out of Banja Luka and the surrounding area.

Banja Luka would remain in Serb hands under the terms of the latest international peace plan, which awards the Moslem-Croat federation 51 percent of Bosnia and the rest to the Serbs.



German Chancellor Helmut Kohl bows as he greets US First Lady Hillary Clinton as she and US President Bill Clinton arrive in Bonn yesterday. (Reuters)

Clinton urges more active role for Germany's military

BARRY SCHWEID
BONN

PRESIDENT Clinton promised yesterday to help accelerate the dismantling of remaining Cold War vestiges in Europe and suggested that he might welcome a more active role for Germany's military.

A court decision is expected this week on whether a reunified Germany still is bound by restrictions on the use of its military imposed more than four decades ago as result of Nazi aggression.

Clinton, during a joint news conference with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said he hesitated to get involved in an issue before the German courts but added: "Anything that can be done to enable Germany to fulfill the leadership responsibilities that it is plainly capable of fulfilling is a positive thing."

"I do hope that we will have the benefit of the full range of Germany's capacities to lead," he added. Kohl all but urged German courts to reverse the restraints and

permit him to send peacekeepers beyond the country's borders.

"When things get a bit rough we cannot simply sit back and let others do the work," Kohl said. "We have to assume our international responsibilities."

Kohl said it was "unacceptable" for Germany, now a unified country of 80 million people with one of the world's strongest economies, to continue to be bound by a constraint put in place after Germany's World War II surrender.

Despite support for a more active role for Germany's military, Kohl said at a luncheon speech that he still welcomed the US decision to keep 100,000 troops in Europe.

Clinton, at the news conference under sunny skies in the gardens of Bonn's Chancellery, said that Europe's future will be defined by

trade as much as troops. He also praised Kohl's efforts in promoting economic growth throughout the region.

"What we have to do is to integrate Europe's other half" to allow former Soviet bloc nations of central and eastern Europe to take their place alongside Germany and more affluent neighbors, he said.

"Germany's leadership to a truly united Europe is critical," the president told a luncheon audience at the Petersberg Palace overlooking the Rhine River.

Germany already is energetically constructing economic and political ties to Russia and the other democratic nations in Eastern and Central Europe that have supplanted communist regimes. The last Russians are about to depart; the elite US Berlin brigade also is

saying farewell to once-divided Berlin.

Clinton was to visit Berlin today.

His visit comes on his way home from a summit meeting in Naples of the world's seven major industrial nations and Russia.

Clinton also praised Germany for promoting NATO's Partnership for Peace program, which has resulted in ties for 21 former communist and neutral European nations with the Western alliance.

The president, who also had seen Kohl at the summit in Naples, planned to visit the German leader's boyhood home of Oggersheim, 125 miles south of Bonn, later yesterday.

Kohl is up for election in October, and Clinton's visit may help his already improving showing in the polls.

Tactfully, Clinton also will meet with opposition leaders, but Kohl will be front and center throughout the two-day visit. (AP)

Scandal could be Major disaster

LONDON (Reuters) - Two Conservative politicians faced a "law-makers-for-hire" probe yesterday in the latest setback for Prime Minister John Major's efforts to control a fractious party, lurching from one crisis to another.

Major, eager to deflect opposition accusations of sleaze, swiftly suspended the two as ministerial aides pending an inquiry.

The two members of his ruling party were accused by a Sunday newspaper, which set them up, of readiness to take money in exchange for asking questions in parliament.

The timing of the scandal for an accident-prone and deeply unpopular government could not have been worse - 48 hours after millionaire novelist and leading Conservative Jeffrey Archer, a close friend of Major, was named in an insider trading inquiry.

Archer, who had been tipped for a post in an imminent cabinet reshuffle, denied the share-dealing allegations. Conservatives called for speedy release of a report on a television takeover deal so that the air can be cleared.

"The Tories (Conservatives) need an accusation of gross impropriety like a drowning man needs a glass of water," The Daily Telegraph said yesterday of a government at an all-time low in opinion polls against the resurgent Labor party.

After election routs at local, national and European levels, Major shook off the mid-term blues last week with a rallying cry to party lawmakers just before the summer parliamentary recess.

Delivering a tough message on public spending cuts, he said: "More must yet be done if we are to get back to our instincts for lower tax."

With the next general election not due until 1997, Major is gambling that recovery from recession, with low inflation, steady growth and falling unemployment, will provide a "feel good factor" among deeply disillusioned voters.

He has also sought to placate Euro-sceptics in his party who brought the government to the brink of defeat last year over ratification of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

His call for a "multi-speed" Europe and veto of Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene as the next EU Commission President won right-wing applause.

Yemen government to meet in Aden

ADEN (Reuters) - The Yemeni cabinet prepared to meet in the war-battered city of Aden yesterday for the first time since the overthrow of southern secessionists who declared it their capital.

Officials said the cabinet, headed by a caretaker prime minister since President Ali Abdullah Saleh sacked the previous prime minister who supported the separatist southern cause, would remain in session in the city for 10 days.

The move was seen by Yemenis as a gesture to reassure southerners defeated after two months of civil war that they remained central to the concerns of the Sanaa-based government.

Residents said they hoped the government would hurry to end the chaos that reigned in the streets of Aden since it fell to government troops on Thursday.

Hospitals, short of staff and supplies, fear epidemics may spread in the city of 500,000 people.

Fresh water supplies, cut during several weeks of siege, have yet to be restored. Food supplies remain short. Telephones are not working in large parts of the city and public transport remains paralyzed.

Looters, both southerners and northerners, have systematically stripped clean virtually all government offices, business premises, foreign consulates and homes of southern leaders who fled the northern advance.

"The government is due to meet here later today," one official said. "But I am not sure where that will be. All government offices have been stripped clean of everything - desks, chairs, cabinets, conditioners...everything."

The UN resident representative in Yemen Awni al-Awni said yesterday after arriving in Aden from Sanaa that the United Nations would do its utmost to help the city return to normal.

He told reporters a joint team of UN bodies such as the World Health Organisation, the children's agency UNICEF, and the Food and Agriculture Organisation would arrive in Aden today to assess the damage and define priorities.

Awai later held talks with Yemeni Defense Minister Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, a southerner who opposed the secessionists.

11-year-olds confess to desecrating Swiss Jewish graves

ZURICH (AP) - Swiss police yesterday questioned two 11-year-old schoolboys who confessed to desecrating a Jewish cemetery as details of another apparent copy-cat incident emerged.

Zurich's education chief said there had been a worrying increase in anti-Semitic behavior among young people and appealed to schools to take tougher action against it.

Eleven gravestones were overturned and four more were vandalized in a Jewish cemetery in Baden, local police said. They said there were no immediate clues on who committed the crime, which occurred some time over the weekend.

Vandals also overturned several gravestones and crosses in a Roman Catholic cemetery in the northwestern town of Appenzell on Saturday night.

Zurich city police spokesman Bruno Kistler said authorities were still searching for a motive for the worst case of desecration, involving more than 100 gravestones.

VLADIMIR Zhirinovskiy's star soared in December on the imaginations of millions of Russian voters. Six months later, it has crashed to earth.

The pugnacious nationalist has not found the going as easy in office as at the polls, where his Liberal Democratic Party achieved a stunning success that alarmed reformers and the West.

"A lot of people saw a national catastrophe coming, but it hasn't happened that way," said Mikhail Berger, a columnist for the newspaper Izvestia.

Zhirinovskiy remains popular with a significant portion of the angriest have-nots - disgruntled workers and pensioners enthralled by his calls for Russia to become a mighty empire again.

His election to the Duma, the lower house of parliament, helped push President Boris Yeltsin's reform-minded government to the center and several "young Turk" reformers out of the Cabinet.

But there is no sign he will ever have the support, or clout, to turn his more radical proposals into law. "Zhirinovskiy's influence has fallen and his image has faded during recent months, when people saw he

was unable to fulfill his promises or achieve results in the Duma," historian Roy Medvedev said.

A survey of 50 political experts published by the newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta this month rated Zhirinovskiy only 19th in influence among Russian politicians.

Even in his own electoral district northeast of Moscow, however, many residents are disenchanted. Shchelkovo is a leafy community of 100,000 people, a tranquil mix of apartment buildings, dachas and farmland about 40 km from the Kremlin. Zhirinovskiy lives in Moscow, but under Russia's electoral system may run in any district he chooses.

Lena Dudakova, an 18-year-old store clerk, said Zhirinovskiy was "going out of style" in Shchelkovo, and pensioner Vladimir Knagin agreed.

During the campaign, Zhirinovskiy promised to unite all the former Soviet republics into a new Greater Russia, stop payments on the foreign debt, cut taxes, keep Russian troops in eastern Europe

and the Baltics, and end foreign aid except to Serbia and Iraq.

He said he would put more ethnic Russian anchors with blue eyes and fair hair on TV newscasts, even promised cheap vodka on every corner.

When his extremist party got 22.8 percent of the votes for Parliament, even Russians were stunned. Asked in a national survey immediately afterward whether they would prefer Boris Yeltsin or Zhirinovskiy as president, they chose Yeltsin by 62 percent to 7.

Even one of Zhirinovskiy's friends, journalist and nationalist legislator Alexander Nevzorov, granted that "it would be blasphemy to wish such a president on Russia."

While he leads a large faction in the Duma, Zhirinovskiy has not been able to assemble a majority.

After using TV commercials and coverage to great advantage in the campaign, he now appears on the screen only now and then, in postures of bluster and buffoonery. There are the fistfights with other

legislators, defections from his party and flaps over his offensive remarks on trips abroad.

Still, polls show support unshaken among Zhirinovskiy's main constituency: blue-collar workers, mostly young men, in the Far East, Siberia and small towns of central Russia.

Zhirinovskiy, 48, won't talk to journalists about his effectiveness, or anything else, unless they pay for the interview.

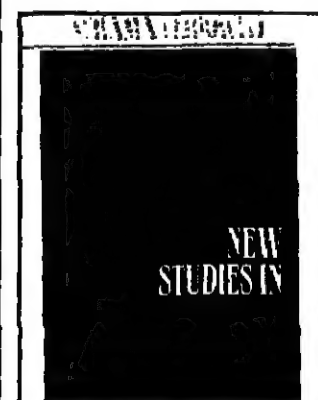
Analysts say that, through his anti-crime crusade, Zhirinovskiy made it easier for Yeltsin to take harsh new measures against crime. And despite his negligible impact elsewhere, they add, he is a talented politician who cannot be written out of the 1996 presidential race.

But those who shuddered at Zhirinovskiy's election are no longer so afraid of him.

"His scandalous outbursts... may cause some people to smile or even laugh now," Yeltsin's chief of staff, Sergei Filanov, said in an interview with Radio Liberty. "But I think in the end, they will greatly annoy everybody." (AP)

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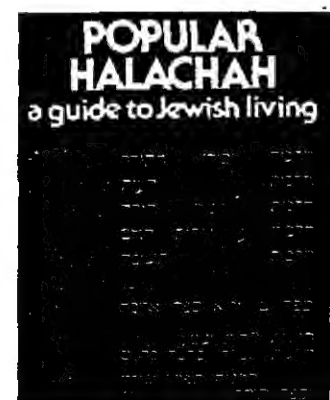
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Seven foreigners killed in Algeria

LAMINE GHANIMI
TUNIS

GUNMEN slew seven foreigners in Algeria yesterday, shooting five dead in a bus ambush and killing two as they dined in a restaurant near the capital, embassy and official sources said.

Two Algerians also died in the restaurant and two people whose nationalities were not immediately known were wounded.

Security forces blamed the lunchtime restaurant attack on Moslem fundamentalists.

"The armed terrorist group burst into the Hacria restaurant inside Algiers zoological park towards 12.30 p.m. yesterday and opened fire on customers sitting at the tables," said security forces, quoted by the official news agency APS.

The restaurant, 10 km from central Algiers, is frequented by diplomats, foreign businessmen and wealthy locals.

Two citizens of former Yugoslavia died in the attack carried out about four hours after four Russians and a Romanian were slain in an ambush in a southeastern suburb of Algiers.

Algerian officials use the term "terrorist" to mean armed Moslem militants whom they blame for violence that has shaken the north African country for the past 30 months, during which at least 3,700 people have been killed. The latest deaths brought to at least 49 the number of foreigners who have died.

The Russians and Romanian died when four or five men as police manning a "road check" stopped their bus.

The five men, who worked with the state oil and gas giant Sonatrach, were with about 10 Algerians going to work and passing through the Algiers suburb of Oued Ouchayeh, a hotbed of militant Moslem fundamentalism.

The gunmen separated the foreigners from their Algerian colleagues, ordered them out of the bus, and "machinegunned" them, an embassy spokesman said.

"They (the foreigners) could be distinguished by reading their names on the badges they wore," he said. The killers fled.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. Last September the fundamentalist Armed Islamic Group gave foreigners one month to leave the country or face death for alleged support of the army-backed government.

The oil specialists, aged from 40 to 45, had been working for a year with Sonatrach, which earns over 90 percent of the north African country's foreign exchange.

They lived in a hotel near the coastal town of Boumerdes, 40 km (25 miles) east of Algiers, and followed the same route to work in Algiers every day, the embassy spokesman said.

Armed militants have been fighting in this country of 26 million people since January 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election which fundamentalists were poised to win.

Earlier yesterday, the official news agency APS reported that five Russians had been killed and the interior ministry had vowed the killers would be arrested and punished.

The latest killing occurred four days after seven Italian seamen had their throats slit by suspected terrorists on their cargo ship in Jenjen port, 240 km east of Algiers.

That killing thrust Algeria's unrest onto the agenda of the Group of Seven (G7) summit of the world's richest nations in Naples at the weekend.

The G7 countries urged a dialogue between the government and non-violent opponents, but at French insistence omitted any reference to the country's main Islamic movement, the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Some of France's partners in the group originally wanted to mention the FIS by name in the final communiqué, but the French insisted that it was up to the Algerian government to choose whom it wanted to talk to. (Reuters)

Mixed outcome for Russia from CIS elections

RALPH BOULTON
MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin can expect a foreign policy bounty from the election defeat of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, but a parallel poll in neighboring Belarus could raise awkward questions here.

Kravchuk's former prime minister Leonid Kuchma, who backs closer ties to Moscow, won Ukraine's presidential elections in an upset that could smooth relations with Russia.

Ukraine's Slav neighbor Belarus delivered a landslide victory to Alexander Lukashenko - a political "dark horse" who profited heavily from popular anger over the republic's declining economy.

Kravchuk, who led Ukraine to independence in 1991, presided over protracted disputes about ownership of the Black Sea Fleet and separatism in Ukraine's Russian-speaking Crimean peninsula that threatened at times to spill over into bloodshed.

While not a fervent nationalist himself, he was vulnerable to nationalist pressure that Kuchma, who beat him in Sunday's polls, will be better placed to resist. Kuchma has pledged more rapid market reforms.

"This may not yet be directly a move to closer ties but, at the very least, it can end the rows we have seen flaring up on the basis of na-

tionalist feelings," Viktor Kremen-yuk of the Institute for the United States and Canada think-tank commented.

The winner of the Belarus elections, 39-year-old Alexander Lukashenko, has also pledged closer ties with Moscow.

There was no immediate reaction from Moscow on either poll, but Economics Minister Alexander Shokhin hinted at better days in Russian-Ukrainian relations.

"We'll meet Kuchma and talk over the problems. We'll take a

look at the old sores together," he said.

Kuchma, a former prime minister disillusioned by what he regarded as Kravchuk's economic conservatism, drew his heaviest support from the industrial eastern Ukraine and the Crimea - both areas dominated by ethnic Russians.

His victory could ease Ukrainian nationalist pressure on the Crimea and dampen demands in the peninsula for a return to rule from Moscow. That will be the hope of Kremlin leaders, who would be put

in a difficult position at home and abroad by any growth of nationalism among Russians in Ukraine.

Moscow must yet fear a Ukrainian nationalist backlash.

Kuchma's notion of leasing the Black Sea Fleet's base at Sevastopol, in the Crimea, to Russia would confirm nationalist suspicions he is not to be trusted with Ukraine's sovereignty.

Some would also apply this to his suggestions that Crimea's ethnic Russians had a right to a say in their own future.

Belarus was the third Slav country which, along with Ukraine and Russia, founded a new alliance in December, 1991, that marked the

end of the Soviet Union and laid the foundation of the frail Commonwealth of Independent States.

Sunday's Belarus presidential elections produced a landslide victory for a virtual unknown on the political scene - the outspoken, populist Alexander Lukashenko.

Lukashenko, a former farm director with no party affiliation, won a landslide 80 percent of the vote against incumbent prime minister Vyacheslav Kebich.

He portrayed the present administration as unable to stop a collapse into grinding poverty and lacking resolve to fight corruption and crime. (Reuters)



North Korean officials line up to receive guests at the North Korean embassy in Beijing yesterday, in front of a portrait of their late leader Kim Il-sung.

Tearful son pays respects to Kim Il-sung

SEOUL (Reuters) - A tearful Kim Jong-il, son and heir of the late North Korean president Kim Il-sung, received ambassadors paying respects to the only leader the Stalinist state has ever known, South Korea's television showed last night.

Seoul's Mumbwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) showed the first pictures of reclusive "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-il since his father's death at 82 was announced on Saturday.

MBC showed Kim weeping before a crystal sarcophagus containing his father's body as it lay in state at Pyongyang's presidential palace.

The MBC video showed de-

fense minister O Jin-u and Prime Minister Kang Song-san at the ceremony, a sign the North Korean political and military elite was firmly behind Kim Jong-il's succession.

"But the man who is taking up the reins of power in the communist world's first dynastic succession did not speak a word to the envoys who bowed to the sarcophagus."

One of the diplomats, contacted by telephone, said ambassadors, military attaches and a few others were summoned to the presidential palace and waited for four hours before being allowed in to view the coffin and shake the hands of the most important lead-

ers present. "Kim Jong-il was present as the first person, the number one," the diplomat said. "He was very serious and in deep sorrow, very concentrated I would say."

Mourning music played throughout the brief ceremony. Kim Jong-il was dressed in a dark-grey high-necked tunic with a black armband. He was not wearing traditional Korean mourning robes.

In striking contrast to the restrained ceremony inside the palace, tens of thousands of ordinary citizens in the capital mourned with barely controlled hysteria.

State North Korean TV showed beribboned military leaders wait-

ing and tearing at their uniforms at the foot of a statue of Kim while others tearfully prostrated themselves before the flower-strewn effigy, beating the ground with their foreheads.

Kim Jong-il has long been his father's designated successor, but little is known of his personality, which has been the subject of fawning propaganda at home and wild rumours abroad.

South Korea and the United States, fearing for the future of a diplomatic initiative launched by Kim Il-sung in the weeks before he died, have acted to fan the flames of detente.

Agencies fear Rwandan rebel advance may cause flood of refugees

GOMA, Zaire, (Reuters) - Rwandan rebels closed in yesterday on the last major town between them and the government and military sources said it might fall in a day, triggering what aid workers feared could be a flood of a million refugees.

Aid agencies in the eastern Zairean border town of Goma said they were bracing for as many as one million displaced people when the northwestern town of Ruhengeri fell and rebels pushed on to the lakeside border town of Gisenyi, last refuge for Rwanda's interim government.

Ruhengeri is the only major stronghold between the minority Tutsi-dominated RPF and the Hutu government, which fled earlier rebel offensives to Gisenyi.

French military intelligence sources said Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) rebels thrust to within two kilometres (half a mile) of Ruhengeri as government army defenses fell apart.

"Our readings indicate that they are now within two kilometres reach of Ruhengeri," one source said. "The government army is in disarray. Ruhengeri could fall within a day."

The self-declared government in Gisenyi says the army has run out of ammunition in its losing war against well-equipped and supplied rebels.

A senior officer said several villages east of Ruhengeri, where the government army has two mechanized battalions, had been abandoned and were deserted as the rebels pushed forward.

"We've detected empty villages, a clear indication of the exodus from areas around Ruhengeri," he said.

Aid workers said they feared the rebel advance could result in a huge influx of up to one million mainly Hutu Rwandese in an area already inundated with thousands of Rwandese and Burundi refugees.

The road from Ruhengeri to Gisenyi is clogged for more than 50 km (30 miles) with tens of thousands of Hutu men, women and children loaded with belongings and terrified of RPF reprisals.

France's Operation Turquoise is struggling desperately to cope with around one million refugees in or near a safe haven it has declared in the southwest. But the protection of French Foreign Legionnaires does not extend as far north as Gisenyi.

France's prime minister and foreign minister were to visit UN headquarters in New York yesterday to try to convince members that UN troops need to get to Rwanda quickly so that French forces can be withdrawn.

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe also want to ensure humanitarian supplies are sent immediately to the mainly Hutu refugees fleeing into the French safe zone.

Journalists who visited Gisenyi, which has survived three months of civil war unscathed, saw thousands of civilians on the move on Sunday and busloads of troops who had pulled out of Ruhengeri.

Chlorine paper drives protesters up the wall

NEW YORK (AP) - Three climbers scaled almost halfway up the 47-story Time-Life Building yesterday to protest Time magazine's use of chlorine-bleached paper. The two women and one man dangled on red ropes on the 180-meter skyscraper. About 20 stories up, they unfurled a 9-by-15-meter banner parodying a Time cover with the message, "Chlorine kills" and "Take the poison out of paper."

Police pulled the climbers in through windows and arrested them on charges of criminal trespass. About 10 more people belonging to the environmental group Greenpeace were arrested on the ground; police did not immediately have details on what those charges would be.

"The paper Time is printing on is bleached with chlorine and that results in the dumping of thousands of toxic chemicals into the water," said Greenpeace spokesman Mark Floegel.

Time Inc. spokesman Peter Costiglio said Greenpeace's contention that Time made a promise more than two years ago to change its paper was "unfair and unwarranted." The company, which publishes more than two dozen magazines, was working on environmentally sound paper processes, Costiglio said.

Experts: Simpson too popular to be sentenced to death

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Jurors would be unlikely to impose the death penalty against O.J. Simpson because he's too popular, legal experts say.

"There is no way that a jury is going to return a death judgment against O.J. Simpson," said defense lawyer Barry Levin, a former Los Angeles police officer who has handled nine capital cases. "The only way a jury will kill your client is if he is a complete animal, they hate him."

Not many people hate Simpson. Recent polls show that most people see him more as a football hero or celebrity than a man accused of murder.

His only reported criminal conviction was a no-contest plea to misdemeanor spousal abuse in 1989. He was sentenced to two years' probation and 120 hours of community service and required to get counseling.

"O.J. Simpson has the advantage of being known for something other than allegedly killing his wife and another person," said Bryan Stevenson, director of the Alabama Capital Representation Resource Center.

"When you're forced to see the

defendant as something more than the criminal act, it becomes much harder to say, 'We're going to kill you.'"

Prosecutors still haven't decided whether to seek the death penalty against Simpson, who is accused of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Simpson, a Hall of Fame football

player, television sports commentator, comic actor and ad pitchman, has pleaded innocent to the June 12 killings and has been held without bail since June 17. His next court date is July 22, when he will be arraigned on the murder charges.

In another development, Newsweek magazine reported in its July 18 issue a new explanation for blood found on Simpson's Ford

Bronco. Simpson told police on June 13 that he cut his hand while preparing for his trip to Chicago the night of the murders and left the blood while retrieving a cellular telephone, Newsweek said.

The cut was in addition to the one he said he suffered in Chicago when he broke a glass upon hearing of his ex-wife's death.

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The Kiryat Arba compromise

THE crisis in Kiryat Arba has been defused, and the squatters in Ashmarot Yitzhak have voluntarily evacuated the empty buildings they illegally occupied. What threatened to become an ugly confrontation was resolved peacefully because representatives of Kiryat Arba residents appealed for the intervention of President Ezer Weizman. And Weizman, with understanding and wisdom, made the necessary moves to reach a compromise. Fortunately, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin suspended his own inflammatory rhetoric long enough to let the president do what he himself should have done.

There is no doubt that there are agitators and hotheads among the residents of Kiryat Arba. Nor is there any question that they exploit terrorist killings to exacerbate tensions. But that they are vocal and that the media give them an opportunity to appear at their vulgar worst does not change the fact that they are a tiny minority. To condemn all the settlers as violent lawbreakers because of these extremists is something no liberal society can permit itself to do.

Unfortunately, there are cabinet ministers who opportunistically pounce on the misconduct of a few to damn the majority. By demanding harsh measures against all the settlers and using language against them usually reserved for mortal enemies, these politicians match the hotheads' contribution to the danger of internal strife.

That Rabin shunned these agitators in his government and sought compromise is to his great credit. Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer should also be commended for successfully negotiating the evacuation of the Ashmarot Yitzhak buildings. Their continued occupation should not have been allowed for the simple reason that it was illegal. But to portray the actions of a few anguished, desperate squatters as a greater danger to the country than the terrorist acts which triggered them is to insult the intelligence and sense of decency of all thoughtful people.

New republics vote

THE roots of democracy have taken a firmer grip in the soil of two important former Soviet republics following weekend elections. Although the results will not please everyone abroad, the enthusiastic turnout of voters in Ukraine and Belarus is an encouraging sign.

The true test of any new democratic state is the ease with which the incumbents relinquish power when the voters tell them to. Ukraine and Belarus passed the test yesterday with flying colors as Presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kibich swiftly and graciously conceded that they had lost their presidential election bids. The victories were decisive - Ukraine's Kravchuk lost to former prime minister Leonid Kuchma by 45 percent to 52. In Belarus, the populist Alexander Lukashenko won the country's first presidential election by scoring an 80 percent win over current Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kibich.

The Belarus result is mainly an indication of the depth of feeling in that country over crime and corruption. The 39-year-old Lukashenko swept through the campaign in a holy rage against corrupt officials and the growing power of the mafia. Lukashenko, a former state farm director, had already gained prominence as head of a parliamentary commission investigating top-level corruption. He spared no one in the current government from his attacks, pointing the finger at dozens of officials including the defense and foreign ministers and the head of the re-vamped KGB.

In Ukraine, Kravchuk's failure to stop an economic landslide into poverty since independence contributed to his defeat. But the most interesting trend to emerge was the clear split in the country between east and west. Kuchma's victory shows the views of his densely-populated and industrial eastern constituency to be dominant. Like those mainly Russian-speakers who supported him, Kuchma - the former head of the Soviet Union's largest missile factory which was in east Ukraine - looks to closer ties with Russia as the hope for economic salvation.

Kravchuk is associated with the more nationalistic, Ukrainian-speaking west where the people look to Europe and the West for their future. The miserable failure of the West to live up to that faith contributed to Kravchuk's defeat. The new leader in Belarus is also a strong supporter of closer ties with Russia - he was the only deputy in the Belarus parliament to vote against the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

While Moscow welcomes the defeat of Kravchuk, it is ambivalent about Lukashenko. Some of his more bizarre statements, such as a threat to deport corrupt officials to the Himalayas, allowed political opponents to label him a Belarusian Zhirinovskiy. This has made Russian leaders cautious in their support. The charge appears false. Lukashenko has none of the buffoonery or extremism of Zhirinovskiy. He appears to be a young man with strong but sincere opinions in great anger over the state of his country.

Kravchuk will at least be remembered with gratitude in Israel. In a generous gesture of reconciliation with world Jewry, he made a very public and sincere apology for Ukraine's past sins at a Babi Yar Holocaust memorial in 1991, and reinforced it in similar statements during his official visit to Israel in January last year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RACIST REMARKS

Sir, - We are shocked and outraged at the blatantly racist remarks attributed to Judge Natan Amit as reported in *The Jerusalem Post* of June 30 ("Ethiopian religious leader sentenced for assaulting girl").

According to the article, the sentencing judge did not limit his remarks to condemning the alleged behavior of the defendant. He also felt compelled to describe the entire Ethiopian community and its customs as "primitive" as compared with the dominant "enlightened and cultured society."

If the judge really made such an outrageous generalization based on

the acts of individuals, he has no place in any court of law. A judge must be impartial and above all prejudice.

We find it ironic that this judge should see fit to use Israeli society as an example of enlightenment and culture. How many rapes occur each year in this country? How many wives are battered, how many children abused? This "enlightened" society could learn much from the "primitive" Ethiopians - respect for elders and teachers, good manners, self-respect and dignity, for a start.

LAURA AND YISRAEL WOOLF
Ma'aleh Adumin.

NO PEACE PROCESS

Sir, - "They can't see the wood for the trees" claims Daniel Bloch, editor of *Davar*, in his article of July 1. Neither, apparently, can he. He expects, or hopes for, "a Palestinian state, disarmed and federally or confederally linked to Jordan."

But what is going to happen if such a state, once established and internationally recognized, a sovereign member of the UN, decides otherwise? When it concludes military alliances with Iraq, or Syria, offers its

territory to their armed forces as deployment area? What other option will there be for Israel but to go to war, to be accused of aggression by some 180 member states of the UN (the US benevolently abstaining, while pressuring for retreat behind the scenes).

Anyone with eyes in his head can see that Mr. Pines's "peace process," must lead to war, not peace.

A. KARNON
Tel Aviv.

COMBATING RACISM

Sir, - I was extremely surprised to read in your edition of June 26 a report on the European Union's global strategy to combat racism, xenophobia and antisemitism. It seems that you have been wrongly informed by a Jewish organization in Brussels which took credit for this initiative.

The European Jewish Congress (EJC), the representative body of the Jewish communities in Europe, has been working on the preparation of

this document for months. The Germans and the French presented their motion at the Corfu summit as a first step towards a global strategy to combat racism, xenophobia and antisemitism. The EJC will cooperate with the new set-up in charge of its implementation.

SERGE CWAJENBAUM,
Secretary General,
European Jewish Congress
Paris.

POSTAL SERVICES

Sir, - On Sunday, July 3, I was in the main post office on Jaffa Road in Jerusalem. There was a line of at least 20 people, but only one of the five clerks on duty was serving the customers. I had to wait 28 minutes for my half-minute transaction. Most of the people in the queue were tourists and there was much muttering in English, German, French, etc., about Israeli inefficiency and disregard for

people. The problem could be easily solved by:

1. An express line, for stamp purchases only.
2. Stamp machines.
3. Waking up the clerks on duty.

LEAH DAVIDSON
Jerusalem.

THE RIGHT TO OWN A CAR

Sir, - An article in the *Post* of June 23 on the proposed Route No. 6 concludes with the following statement by one Arye Shabat of the Trans-Israel Highway Company: "Anybody who has ever waited in a traffic jam here knows that the road has to be built." I dare say, but the waiting driver would also know that there were 500 road deaths and countless more injuries in 1993, mostly involving the private motorist; 1994 promises to be worse, but not as bad as 1995.

While he sits and fumes, he might well ponder what it must be like instead, to be traveling in (say) a train. He could sleep, read, admire the view, talk to friends or have a meal, confident that he is being driven by a disciplined professional, who, among other things, won't tailgate the train ahead.

Why then should this road be built? European experience has shown that one to two years after a new road is built or an existing one widened, it is full to capacity and the cycle starts all over again. They have discovered that the only way to wean the motorist away from his beloved and on to public transport is to leave the roads exactly as they are. Even in the city of Los Angeles, the likes of which Israel seems doomed to become, they have shunned roads in favor of railways.

If I pass the test and have the money, I can buy a car. It is then apparently the government's duty to see that I am provided with six-lane highways, gas stations, rest areas, repair shops and copious parking not more than half a minute's walk from where live or work, never mind if this means covering the whole country in concrete. The right to own a car is as fundamental as food, clothing, shelter and health.

What is required is not more roads but fewer cars (and more public transport). However, at present the public accepts the disadvantages of the car including the slaughter, and until this attitude changes, things will remain the same.

G.L. GOLDMAN
Tel Aviv.



Arafat cites the Koran

MOSHE KOHN

OUR political leaders appear deaf to the pleadings of at least half their constituency that they stop making one-sided concessions to the PLO. They seem equally deaf to the ominous insinuations and plain statements made by PLO leaders.

Two factors strike me as the explanation for this. One is our leaders' patronizing attitude to the PLO and its supporters. This is reflected in their dismissal of unfriendly statements by Yasser Arafat & Co. as "just so much talk" or as being "for internal [Arab] consumption." We are told to bear the arafatous venom "for the sake of peace."

The other factor is our leaders' fear that facing reality will shatter their daydream about a "new Middle East."

A fresh indication of this deafness was our leaders' failure to react to certain ominous nuances in Yasser Arafat's speeches when he arrived in Gaza and Jericho between July 1 and 5. They even ignored, or pretended to ignore, some of his plain threatening words.

With one or two rare exceptions, our news media, too, shut their ears and minds to the PLO godfather's warning hints to his followers and anyone else who was paying attention.

It was generally noted that in his "homecoming" speech in Gaza on July 1, Arafat extended "hearty blessings to our brethren in the Negev Desert and Galilee" - an obvious reference to the Arabs of those regions.

Except for his reference to the Oslo/Cairo accords - under which he can now roam Eretz Yisrael - as "a peace of the brave," he failed to greet directly the country of which those "brethren" are citizens, Israel; their Jewish fellow citizens with whom he is going through some motions of peace-making; and the government of Israel, which set the stage for those motions.

If that were not enough, in greeting those "brethren" of his, he cited a passage from the Koran which, in that context, has a most unsavory and ominous implication.

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land. You shall become great transgressors. And when the prophecy of your first transgression came to be fulfilled, We sent against you a formidable army [the Assyrians under Sennacherib] which ravaged your land.... Then We granted you victory over them.... so that once again you became a numerous people....

"And when the prophecy of your second transgression came to be fulfilled, We sent another army [the Romans under Vespasian and Titus] to afflict you and to enter the Temple as [the Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar] entered it before, utterly destroying all.... We said: 'God may yet be merciful to you. If you again transgress, you shall again be scourged....'

So Arafat intends to inflict a third destruction on us.

Some may quibble about whether or not Arafat was hinting at anything in his Koranic quotations. But there can be no quibbling about his plain words in Jericho last Tuesday: "...We will continue the struggle until we have established our independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. Yes, yes, we will pray in Jerusalem, we will pray in Jerusalem."

Our government has been telling us cynomorphically, out of all sides of its mouth, both that the so-called peace process is now irreversible and that we will halt and reverse it if Arafat shows that he will not, or cannot, implement the Oslo/Cairo accords.

Whatever the case, let our government leaders indicate that they heed and understand what Arafat and his lieutenants are saying and doing. Let them stop shouting and hurling epithets at, or treating as criminals, law-abiding citizens who ask them for explanations or disagree with them.

Above all, let them tell us more plainly and truthfully where they intend to lead the Jewish state, and what price they intend to pay in our name.

Let them do so soon, and promptly call elections.

ONE NEED not be especially shrewd to understand that Arafat is promising Israel's "oppressed" Arabs that they will soon be leaders dominating this land, and inflicting the scourge on the latter-day Pharaohs and Hamans, the Jews.

Sharon noted another Arafat quotation from the Koran, one that, to the best of my knowledge, was not noted by anyone else.

A little earlier, in Rafiah, on his way to Gaza, Arafat cited an even more sinister segment of the Koran. This is in Sura 17, which Moslem tradition understands to refer to Mohammed's miraculous night flight from Mecca to Jerusalem.

From verse 4 on, Mohammed says in Allah's name: "... We solemnly declared to the Israelites: 'Twice you shall commit evil in the

hammered recounts in Allah's name "the tale of Moses and Pharaoh." In verses 5-6, we read: "... Truly, [Pharaoh] was an evildoer. But it was Our will to favor those who were oppressed and to make them leaders among men, to bestow on them a noble heritage and to give them power in the land; and to inflict on Pharaoh, Haman and their warriors the very scourge they dreaded..." (Penguin edition, Dawood translation).

From verse 4 on, Mohammed says in Allah's name: "... We solemnly declared to the Israelites: 'Twice you shall commit evil in the

with Hitler's triumphal entry into Paris.

And then we have MK Ron Nahman urging Israeli soldiers "not to be Rabin's marionettes." If that isn't a call to refuse to obey orders, words have no meaning. Following his lead, after the two

recent murders, settlers showered the OC Central Command and other soldiers with abuse.

Rabin has been accused of "delegitimizing" the Jewish settlers in the occupied territories. But all sections of the "National Camp" have openly and repeatedly tried to "delegitimize" the government.

Is it any wonder that he follows the example of the creature in the old French song: "This animal is wicked: when it is attacked it defends itself?"

AND NOW we have had an unscrupulous campaign of demagoguery on the pretext of "defending Jerusalem." Against what? A visit by Yasser Arafat to the mosques on the Temple Mount?

The proud paladins of the "Na-

tion: To the best of my knowledge, this was noted only in *Yediot Aharonot* on July 4, in an interview with Moshe Sharon, professor of Islamic history at the Hebrew University.

Sharon explained: The passage Arafat cited is in Sura 28, "Al-Kassas/The Story," in which Mo-

land. You shall become great transgressors. And when the prophecy of your first transgression came to be fulfilled, We sent against you a formidable army [the Assyrians under Sennacherib] which ravaged your land.... Then We granted you victory over them.... so that once again you became a numerous people....

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The proud paladins of the "Na-

Mass illness

JIM SCHNABEL

LAST month, the White House announced its support for legislation to compensate those suffering from the mysterious and controversial "Gulf war syndrome." A subversion of medical science by politics is under way.

News accounts of the mysterious affliction began in 1992, with reports that some 300 Gulf war veterans were suffering from a range of symptoms including pain in the joints, skin rashes, shortness of breath, chest pain, insomnia, fatigue, mental impairment, nightmares and hair loss.

Initial suspicion fell on smoke from Gulf oil fires, Iraqi chemical and biological weapons and hard-to-diagnose tropical diseases such as leishmaniasis.

When the US Veterans Administration announced a registry for Gulf war syndrome victims, the number of claimants rose from 300 to 24,000.

Studies of British and American veterans and their experiences during the Gulf war have shown, however, that these symptoms, which vary substantially from claimant to claimant, are not clearly related to any common factor, and often have causes obviously unrelated to Gulf service.

'Gulf War syndrome' has led to an epidemic of claims in the US

The most recent such study, by an outside scientific panel led by Nobel laureate Joshua Lederberg, was published on June 23 and was surely known to the White House well in advance of publication.

THERE ARE no blood tests or other "objective" diagnostic procedures to weed out spurious claims.

But some Gulf war vets are clearly after big money. Last month, a group of them filed a \$1 billion lawsuit in Houston, alleging that 11 chemical companies, which allegedly sold the raw materials for chemical weapons to Iraq, are responsible for their ailments.

The Pentagon and Lederberg's panel have said there is no evidence that American troops were exposed to chemical weapons during Desert Storm. But it is possible that the companies named in the suit will settle for a smaller but still prodigious sum, rather than endure expensive litigation and negative publicity. The administration's promotion of Gulf war syndrome can't help but encourage such lawsuits.

Most authorities outside the medical profession seem unaware of how easily the official validation of a syndrome can lead to an epidemic of claims, whether the syndrome exists or not.

This is especially so when (a) diagnosis confers some secondary benefit like financial compensation, the avoidance of responsibility or merely ego-boosting attention; and (b) when the symptoms of the "syndrome" are already common in the population. These symptoms, though perhaps unrelated, may suddenly take on new and cohesive significance in the minds of their many sufferers, intensifying through the same psychosomatic mechanisms that give us the powerful "placebo effect."

A good example is the epidemic that occurred in Kiev in the anxious years after Chernobyl.

A group of schoolchildren developed a collection of symptoms including fatigue, pallor, abdominal pain, headache and mental impairment. Ukrainian doctors decided to call the syndrome "vegetative dystonia," attributed it to radiation exposure from the Chernobyl disaster and prescribed a variety of dubious procedures requiring two to six weeks' hospitalization. Soon three-quarters of Kiev's child population had reported the symptoms.

UCLA pediatrician Richard Steinhilber, visiting Kiev in 1991, realized that the syndrome was occurring too long after Chernobyl to be blamed on acute radiation poisoning and that it was also nonexistent among people receiving high-dose radiation treatments in hospitals, who should have suffered the same symptoms if they were indeed radiation-related. Steinhilber, writing in the *American Journal of the Diseases of Children*, diagnosed vegetative dystonia as nothing more than "psychological fallout," which is to say, mass hysteria.

Unfortunately, mass hysteria are nothing new in America. Avoiding them requires careful attention to the power of suggestion by authority figures, and the discouragement of spurious self-victimization. Mass illness can be created more easily by suggestion and incentive than by any chemical or biological agent.

The writer reports on science. (Washington Post)

The writer is a veteran member of the Zionist and Labor movements.

Mass
illness

Home on the run: They get around

HELEN KAYE

AN orchestra on wheels," is how general manager Aharon Kidron describes the peripatetic Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra (KCO), celebrating its 25th anniversary this upcoming season.

The 44-member KCO performs from Daphna in Galilee to Sha'ar Hanegev in the south, with stops in the Beit She'an and Megiddo regions - up to 120 concerts annually. Their new season will open in October.

The repertoire combines the tried-and-true classical works with contemporary world and Israeli music. Among the season's eight Israeli compositions are three the orchestra commissioned.

These are *Concerto for Recorder and Orchestra Capriccio No. 4* by resident composer Michael Wolpe and *Concerto for Orchestra* by Shlomo Gronich.

This last work is part of the inaugural program which also features pianist and Rubinstein Competition winner Natasha Tashon, who will play Beethoven's "Emperor" piano concerto. There is a Bach violin concerto played by Gilead Hildesheim, the KCO's new concertmaster, and it is conducted by Doron Salomon who's going into his second season as the KCO's music director.

"The challenge of working with an orchestra like the KCO is seeing its great potential and working towards it," says Salomon, who is off to Macedonia the day after the season ends. There he will conduct Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Macedonian Philharmonic, his other orchestra.

Other program highlights include performances of the Bach B minor Mass, conducted by Ger-

man conductor Karl-Friedrich Beringer, the guitar concerto by Giuliani, which is not performed often and in which Salomon is both soloist and conductor, and the first-ever appearance by any orchestra at the International Guitar Festival next November.

KCO soloists include members of the orchestra, such as bassoonist Aniko Goldman, and Georgian violinist Marina Yashvili, making a debut performance in Israel with the Bruch violin concerto No. 1. There are also to be appearances by clarinetist Hen Halevi and percussionist Chen Zimbalista, who performs in the KCO's youth and family series as well.

These concerts are a blend of music and theater, and range from Zimbalista's *To Sing with Percussion* to Shashi's *Symphony*, a romp through the world of music with singer/actor Eli Gorenstein.

To get themselves in trim for the season, the KCO is traveling to Germany and to Zagreb in Croatia for a series of concerts from October 1-8.

In Germany they'll play at the Kaiserslautern and Rhineland Pfalz festivals. The program includes works by Wolpe, Haydn and Hartman.

All this traveling around, says Kidron, makes a big dent in the KCO's NIS 3.1 million budget, of which NIS 1.2m. comes from the Ministry of Science, Communication and the Arts and a like sum from the various kibbutz movements. The rest is earned income.

City dwellers can get to hear the KCO too, as the orchestra will appear in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv with selected programs. Haifa fans, however, will have to travel to Nahariya.



TRULY TOGETHER: Yehudit Ravitz and Gidi Gov team up with Rami Kleinstein at next week's Arad Festival. They will be performing on opening night, July 20, at the Arad Stadium. Also appearing at the annual summer festival are Miki Gabrielov, Danny Sanderson, Danny Robas, David Broza and Shlomo Artzi. (Ari Waldman)

Act the Irish way

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA

By Brian Friel. Hebrew, Dan Almogor. Direction, Ido Ricklin. Design, Joe Vaneek. Hebrew title, *Rokdim BeLugnassa*. At the Meskin Auditorium, Habimah National Theater.

Five spindly sisters Rivka Gur, Idit Tepperon, Ora Meirson, Odella Segal, Tali Azouza. Narrator Gal Piznik. Prices Tel Aviv/Jerusalem

OWING something to poetic tragedy from Synge to Lorca, *Dancing at Lughnassa* does for Donegal what *The Playboy of the Western World* did for Aran, and *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* for Castile.

Friel's treatment of female frustration and of the drudgery of rural Irish domesticity, like Lorca's, is a matter of five "imprisoned" spinster sisters, differs radically in its retrospective approach. At best this is a questionable literary device when it comes to theatrical credibility.

While drawing on the same kitchen scene, characters and speech patterns prevalent in Irish drama, Friel innovates with his own form. The action proceeds in flashes of bittersweet memories narrated by an adult who revisits his childhood via this episodic dra-

ma. His recollections, though suffused with a poetic aura and loaded with pagan mystique, contribute little to the dynamic of the piece, and even slow it up.

However, Ido Ricklin's sensitive direction makes the most of the poetry, its genuine pathos, together with the native Irish atmosphere.

Above all, it is his handling of his actors that exceeds all expectation. For once, local actors playing characters far removed from the Israeli temperament succeed in slipping into their skins with conviction.

While Odella Segal has some moving moments as Rose, Idit Tepperon, Ora Meirson and Tali Azouza (Maggie, Agnes and Chris, respectively) give the most outstanding examples of true histrionic mimesis in these Irish roles. Uri Avrahami as their brother, the amnesiac missionary priest, and Dudu Ben-Ze'ev as the narrator's feckless father give equally sympathetic performances.

An ambitious set complete with emblematic cornfield bisects the stage. Intended to intensify the imagery, it also chatters the performing space left to the actors in Meskin's limited stage area.

The musical world according to Daniel Barenboim

DANIEL Barenboim is a musician who sets his own standards.

Last week, Barenboim performed two piano concerti with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of the young and talented Yaron Traub.

When Barenboim plays Beethoven's third piano concerto, you at once sense the composition's inner power.

It is a performance that delivers a thoughtful and contemplative picture, achieved not through large gestures but rather through very minute details.

Barenboim carefully weighs every note he performs. At times you sense the grace and elegance in the music and the performance, but overall you sense the purity of the sound and the refined quality of the performance. This was not a romantic, joyful Beethoven, emotions Barenboim generally avoids. He sees the music differently, usually as a struggle of the composer.

This was also evident in

Brahms's more demanding second piano concerto, in which one could revel in the elegance of Barenboim's poetry alongside the immense musical drama he was delivering. Each note, each phrase, each bar of music becomes a complete musical world when performed by this legendary pianist.

Again, Barenboim avoided the dramatic clichés associated with this composition. He gave it his very personal rendition.

Mann Auditorium, July 4
Michael Aljassat

CONCERT ROUNDUP
In the fast movements: A pleasant elegance was nevertheless discernible in the final movement.

German violinist Antje Weithaas's tone in Leonard Bernstein's *Serenade* was extremely soft, meditative in expression in the slow movements and brilliantly exuberant in the fast ones, particularly in the jazzy *Alcibiades*.

Her impeccable technique and sensitive attentiveness to the music's changing moods gave this somewhat drawn-out work a sense of freshness and liveliness.

There was not much that was dreamy about Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Wind instruments incapable of starting together awoke us to a rather drab reality, and an upside-down sound balance made the delicate strings succumb to the noisy winds.

In the Scherzo, the fairies appeared somewhat plump, and the concluding Wedding March might

Music artists come back for seconds

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

SEAL is out with a second album. Like his remarkable debut album of three years ago, it is simply titled *Seal* (Hed Arzi).

Albums that knock millions of people sideways are rare. *Seal* #1 was such an album. *Seal* #2 is not.

On the first album a man cried out to the sky. The cry was as old as Africa, but its language was schooled in Britain. When colored and amplified by super producer Trevor Horn's powerful musical arrangements, it turned into an album as communicative as anything that came out that year. The tall, very black, dreadlocked Seal was photographed posed with falcons and wearing leather, looking like some sort of dream warrior.

On *Seal* #2 the star grows up and reveals that he's just an ordinary man after all - one who's had to go through a lot of therapy to deal with the hoopla unleashed when he sang "we're never gonna survive, unless we get a little crazy." He's a good guy who's doing his best not to shortchange us. He waited three years until he had something to say. The dreadlocks have given way to a shaved head. And he is now photographed naked, with nothing to hide. He is telling all. Unfortunately that "all" does not happen to amount to all that much.

The man is no longer desperate. He is merely insecure. He no longer sings out to his solitary (and perhaps suicidal) brothers and sisters, backed by Horn's irresistible call to arms of a drum roll, as he did in "Killer." Instead, Seal puts around the musical kitchen attempting to whip up the perfect harmonic soufflé.

He does come close to succeeding on "Kiss from a Rose," a joyous if slightly soppy love song backed by Elizabethan-style chorals. "Fast Change" is made interesting by Eastern-style string arrangements. And "Dreaming in Metaphors" has some original ideas.

This is not an empty album ("If I Could," a short duet with Joni Mitchell, is sane and soothing),

but the momentum is gone. And now that Seal has slowed down, all his limitations show. He is not a meticulous lyricist. And when not propelled by a great hook, his thoughts fail to hit home. To make matters worse, production wizard Horn often slips into predictability.

MULTI-PLATINUM albums are a notoriously tough act to follow, even when they were just a great goof in the first place. The Spin Doctors' first album, *Pocket Full of Kryptonite* (NMC), took two years of play on alternative radio to take off. Only when the delightful "Two Princes" and its gloriously whacked-out video became smash hits did the band finally succeed.

Now comes *Turn It Upside Down* (NMC), which is already being hyped as "this summer's feel-good album." The video "Cleopatra's Cat" is getting plenty of exposure and it looks like more platinum may be on the way.

The scat singing of the song's opening gets off to a good start. But then, instead of developing the song musically, the doctors sound like they're actually saying something - throwing out free associations about everything from Shakespeare to Jesus and fascism vs. democracy.

I may be missing something here, but to me this just sounds like name dropping by someone who's been taking too many drugs.

The Spin Doctors are not particularly innovative. But they play loose-limbed Seventies rock pretty well. "You Let Your Heart Go Too Fast" and "Laraby's Gang" sound like Steve Miller at his not quite best. And "Big Fat Funky Booty" has a singalong quality. But this album contains no song to match the throwaway charm of "Two Princes."

Nonetheless, it has a fresh and amiable ambience that may make it one of the albums that a lot of people choose to live with this summer.

'Zorba' the Pole is a hit

DANCE

DORA SOWDEN

THE Polish Opera Ballet in Lorca Massine's *Zorba the Greek* at the Karmiel Dance Festival for only one night last week outshone anything in dance at the Israel Festival Jerusalem this year.

Sixteen men, joined by 16 women, gave the movements that excitement hoped for, and the dance routines had the same spirit as the film, but was never just imitation.

In one great burst at the end, however, the whole company unashamedly quoted the famous steps and composer Theodorakis quoted his own music triumphantly, bringing a murmur from the audience.

Massine took the title role. In his walk, gestures, steps and characterization he was Zorba - lacking only the weight of body that the screen gave to Anthony Quinn.

Excessive sentimentality crept in with the death of the two women (both on stage): but it righted itself with the reconciliation of the two men: a splendid finale.

Other premieres also left indelible impressions. Rami Be'er created *Aide Memoire* for the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company and it had almost everything - magnificent lighting, eloquent movement, stunning staging - but in its 80 minutes it played too long on one note: anguish.

The shortest premier - a mere half-hour - at 2 a.m. in the open air was artistic director Yonatan Kamron's *David* (music: Yitzhak Grazier).

This was about young David in his early love-life and friendships -

in fact a folk tale, not history, and all the better for it, with Richard Orbach as a charming, convincing David.

Among other remarkable performances was the Bat Dor program that included Martha Graham's bewitching *Temptation of the Moon* and the Israel Ballet's program of works by Michel Fokine, Lar Lubovitch and Berta Yampolsky's *Gurrelieder* (both already reviewed).

Unusual was *Impressionist Dance in Israel* arranged by Rina Sharett, monitored by Giora Manor, that consisted of reconstructions of dances by some of the early "greats" and included also a live performance of one of her star solos by veteran Deborah Bertonoff.

A highlight was the appearance of Israelis now dancing abroad: Talia Paz, Boaz Cohen, Rafael Sadi, Eytan Sivak, all from the Culberg Ballet (Sweden), performed solos by Orjan Andersson.

Aryeh Weiner danced a duet with Philippa Buckingham (Netherlands Dance Theater), Yoav Kaddar came from the Peter Pucci company in New York.

The solo by Lior Lev (Stuttgart) was choreographed by Israeli Igal Perry (who has a studio in New York) and Elis Lazar from the New Jersey Ballet (USA) was impressive.

It was a festival as congested as the five in previous years but undoubtedly the best yet. And for those who came for the folk dancing there were eight troupes from abroad.

Director Sturua makes a return visit

NOVED Georgian director Robert Sturua will direct Hanchel Levin's new play *Openmouthed* at Tel Aviv's Cameri Theater during the 1995 season.

This is a return visit for Sturua, who directed Moliere's *Tartuffe* at Habimah in 1990.

Sturua is best remembered for his *Richard III* and Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, which his Rustaveli Theater of Tbilisi performed at the 1989 Israel Festival.

The Levin/Sturua collaboration is at the playwright's request, and the two have been working on the play since the fall.

Helen Kaye

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15				
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	1	TOP POP 1994	VOL 4
#2	8	1	ETHNICS	AT
#3	1	1	HIT MAN 1994	VOL 5
#4	12	9	VIA	ORIGINALS
#5	1	7	STYVO HAYALD	DELIONS
#6	3	21	DAVID BROZA	MASADA
#7	19	2	LEONARD COHEN	LIVE
#8	5	40	SHLOMO ARTZI	COMPLETE COLLECTION
#9	4	3	AEROSMITH	GET A GRIP
#10	2	8	ZIKNEI TZFAT	LIVE ZIKNEI TZFAT
#11	9	40	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
#12	14	30	ACHINOM NINI	NINI AND DOR
#13	7	1	HIT BOX 1994	VOL 5
#14	17	5	CRASH TEST	GOD SHUFFLED HIS FEET
#15	8	3	DANN ROBAS	OR FL SHOOT

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

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Ministry of Energy and the Infrastructure
Electricity Administration

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Israel Electricity Corporation Ltd. has approached me, requesting that, utilizing my rights under the above order, I permit the Corporation to carry out the work noted below, in Parcels 19, 20, 25, 32, 33, 34, 43, 48, 50, 58, 64, 85, 91, 102 of Block 28510; Parcels 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 19, 22, 23, 212 of Block 30601.

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Anyone claiming ownership or rights in any of these parcels is asked to write by August 25, 1994, giving permission for this work to be carried out, or stating his objections to the work to be done. Please write to: The Electricity Administration, Min. of Energy and the Infrastructure, P.O.B. 13106, Jerusalem 91130.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 1994

Shikun Ufituah sale to private investors okayed

THE cabinet privatization committee yesterday approved the sale of a controlling interest in Shikun Ufituah to private investors.

Although the government originally intended to sell the company through a stock market issue in March, the sale was aborted when, fearing the poor market conditions, the offering's underwriters backed out from the issue.

The government is offering a minimum stake of 52 percent of the company and up to the whole company. The committee noted that it would prefer selling 100% of the company

JOSE ROSENFELD

to private investors.

If, however, it is not possible, the remaining shares will be sold to the public, and the company's workers by means of a stock market offering.

Government Companies Authority director Yossi Nitzani said the company's value ranged between NIS 780 million and NIS 900m. at the end of last year. He added that the government is presently updating those figures.

The Treasury is planning to sell the controlling interest by the end of the

year and any remaining shares by February.

Nitzani told the committee that Shikun Ufituah's profitability had improved dramatically in recent years. Last year, the company netted NIS 65m. in profits, while in 1991 it only earned NIS 5.5m.

The company's land holdings are estimated to be worth \$300m. Half of the land is located in the country's center, while 70% is situated in areas with demand for private construction.

The company controls a 6.5% share of the construction market. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat



Nitzani: Firm's profitability has improved dramatically in recent years. (Rahamim Israeli)

said several investors have recently shown an interest in buying the company.

Carmel Bank buys 15% of Emerik insurance company

CARMEL Bank has signed an agreement to purchase about 15 percent of Emerik insurance company from the Rinot/Zuckerman group, insurance sources announced yesterday.

The Rinot/Zuckerman group consists of Avraham Rinot, Ararat Insurance Company manager, and Phyllis Zuckerman, a South African businessman who until recently served as Ararat chairman.

Sources said Emerik's market value was estimated at between \$8 million and \$10m. for the purpose of the transaction. The company's new

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

owners plan to change Emerik's name to Iliit.

The supervisor of insurance and supervisor of banks have approved the transaction.

After conclusion of the purchase, Rinot and Zuckerman will each hold 27.5% of Emerik's shares, businessman David Savit will have a 12.5% share and a European company will own 17% of the firm's shares.

Emerik is among the smallest insurance companies in the sector. Sev-

eral months ago, the UK-based Prudential sold the company to the Rinot group.

Insurance sources said Bank Carmel's decision to purchase Emerik is in the framework of the bank's plans to move into direct marketing of insurance.

The Rinot group hopes to take advantage of Bank Carmel's mortgage portfolio to increase house insurance policy sales.

Carmel plans to announce the signing of the transaction to the Securities Authority today. The bank refused to confirm or deny the report.

Osem plans to hike coffee prices 15%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK and news agencies

OSEM Investments yesterday announced plans to raise the price of its coffee an average 15 percent in reaction to the sharp rise in prices on world coffee markets.

Coffee prices surged almost 25 percent to 8 1/2-year highs yesterday after frosts threatened to destroy up to half the Brazilian crop, the world's largest.

News that a second frost in as many weeks had hit Brazil's major coffee growing areas sent prices on the London futures market more than \$900 a tonne higher to \$4,000 for delivery in September, their highest since early 1986.

Prices have now risen five-fold since the beginning of last year, following a prolonged slump from the late 1980s when an international agreement to prop up the market collapsed.

Osem said prices will go up tomorrow after the increases in world coffee prices left it with no alternative.

Earlier this month, Elite Industries, the country's other large coffee distributor, increased the price of its coffee by 15%.

Dollar resumes fall after G7 fails to actively support it

US currency nears NIS 3 mark after 0.43% drop

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar resumed its relentless downward spiral yesterday, hitting another post-World War II low against the yen after world leaders failed to put active support behind it.

The US currency plummeted in Europe to its latest trough at 97.33 yen, new 20-month lows on the mark and Swiss franc, and a 13-month nadir against sterling.

Against the shekel, the dollar fell 0.43% to NIS 3.0020.

But some analysts warned that the Group of Seven industrial nations could still have something up their sleeves, although they gave only verbal support at their Naples summit.

"Operators are a little bit concerned the G7 is not letting on all its intentions about the dollar," said Nigel Richardson, economist at Japanese bank Yamaichi in London.

Richardson noted the last round of coordinated intervention had occurred not long before the summit and said he expected the authorities' tolerance limits were not far off now.

Traders are also looking for the US Federal Reserve to signal a tightening in monetary policy soon, particularly after US employment data on Friday

was much stronger than expected.

The dollar continued falling to set a 20-month low at 1.5342 marks, its weakest point since late October 1992. By the afternoon, it stood at 1.5350 marks and 97.41 yen, four pence and one yen down from 1.5750 and 98.63 on Friday, before the annual G7 summit got fully under way in Naples.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said in Naples the US wanted a stronger dollar and G7 would act on currencies when appropriate. Japan's Deputy Prime Minister Yoshi Kono said a further dollar decline was neither desirable nor justifiable.

But a Bonn official said the dollar/yen's fall was a matter for the US and Japan, and he was relaxed about it.

Traders in Europe said the market was disappointed at the blandness of the summit result, even though this had been well flagged by dampening comments from officials before the meeting.

The last bout of visible concerted intervention was on June 24, when 17 central banks tossed the dollar a \$2-\$3 billion lifeline. But it was a dismal failure and the dollar fell.

Market players say the Fed could indicate a quarter-point or even a

half-point rise in its target for the federal funds rate, now at 4.25 percent, after US inflation data today and Wednesday.

"But if it is 25 [basis points], the market won't jump on the dollar because that's already discounted," a senior dealer at a German bank in Frankfurt said.

Tony Norfield, Treasury economist at Dutch bank ABN Amro in London, said since the Fed had not acted after the jobs data on Friday, it was hard to see the central bank being pushed into action this week.

Domestic factors might be the catalyst, but he said the Fed could now wait until next month instead.

This meant little joy for the dollar near term. "The first move is down and there's no hurry to buy," Norfield said.

Dealers said earlier a political vacuum created by the death of North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung was likely to slow the dollar's decline on the yen, but some were skeptical over how much this would induce general safe-haven investment in dollars.

Targets for the dollar now ranged from 1.53 marks down to below 1.50. Against the yen, dealers said 95 yen was the next point for which to aim.

El Al reports \$9.9m. profit last year

HAIM SHAPIRO

EL AL reported a profit of \$9.9 million last year, despite stiff competition and the continuing crisis in which most of the world's airlines are losing millions of dollars, El Al Director-General Rafi Harlev reported yesterday.

This was the eighth year in a row that the airline, which is still in receivership and on the verge of privatization, has shown a profit.

El Al's revenues were \$947.1m.

The number of passengers carried increased by 10 percent to 2,145,000, while the average annual passenger load factor was 72 percent. The company also carried 185,000 tons of cargo.

During the year, El Al inaugurated service to four new destinations - Barcelona, Paphos (Cyprus), Bombay and Bangkok. It also took delivery of two new Boeing 757-200 aircraft.

However Harlev warned that 1994 would be a more difficult year for the airline, because of the privatization plans and the fact that competition in the Israeli market has grown considerably, with particularly stiff fare competition.

Harlev said the government must continue to under a major part of El Al's costs incurred as a result of its special security needs.

Court remands Tsabari until his trial date

RAINE MARCUS

EYLON Tsabari, the former assistant director of Bank Hapoalim's Gmilot Provident fund, was remanded until his trial yesterday, on suspicion of suborning witnesses and obstructing justice.

Tsabari was originally arrested by the Securities Authority on suspicion of stock manipulation.

But following his release from house arrest, he allegedly tried to convince his friend, Nir Ben-Yosef, to give false evidence to investigators. He was re-arrested.

But Ben-Yosef turned state's witness and defense attorneys Penina Devorin and Dan Qual argued at the remand hearing last week that it was a case of the "suborned being suborned to suborn."

Devorin argued that Tsabari could not "suborn" Ben-Yosef, since the two had collaborated to commit foreign currency offenses and even invented a cover story.

Tsabari's wife Manya was also indicted yesterday on two charges of suborning witnesses and obstructing justice, but she was not detained.

According to the charge sheet, Manya Tsabari complied with her husband's request to persuade Ben-Yosef to lie to securities authority investigators. While her husband was under house arrest, Manya made several phone calls to Ben-Yosef from a public phone booth. The conversations were recorded and handed over to police.

Tsabari has not yet been indicted on the stock manipulation charges.

In remanding him until trial, Judge Bracha Ophir said Tsabari did not appear to have a passive nature, and

she believed he was the initiator of the contacts with Ben-Yosef.

"The accused is a person who takes the initiative and who used all his intellectual and mental resources to try and extricate himself from the maze he found himself in - just as a drowning man tries to beat the waves with his hands and legs."

Referring to the argument that the "suborned was suborned to suborn," Ophir said that after listening to seven recordings of conversations between Ben-Yosef and Tsabari, she was not convinced this was so.

In one recording, said Ophir, Ben-Yosef repeatedly asked Tsabari to tell him the "truth" regarding the stock manipulation offenses. Tsabari asked him to concentrate on the foreign currency transactions the two had conducted.

"Regarding their business relationship and attempts to conceal their deals, the accused [Tsabari] reveals himself as active, dominant and an initiator," said Ophir. "[Tsabari] ordered Ben-Yosef to transfer receipts in his name and asked him to encourage other witnesses to lie to authorities."

If released on bail, she added, Tsabari may initiate, in practice or verbally, the suborning of witnesses to lie or to destroy evidence. Since the offenses were committed while Tsabari was under house arrest, an alternative to custody was obviously not effective, she added.

Qual and Devorin said they were surprised at the decision and would probably appeal to the district court for the release of their client.

They also asked that another judge preside at the Tsabari's trial.

No need for central bank to pay interest on foreign currency

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday upheld the Bank of Israel's right not to pay interest on foreign currency deposits, but sharply criticized the policy on the grounds that it forces depositors to sell their foreign currency to the Treasury.

However, even though it didn't have to, the central bank told the court it would reduce liquidity requirements for these accounts from 100 percent to 4% at a rate of three percentage points a month.

This will probably encourage commercial banks to begin paying interest on these accounts.

The court was ruling on a 1991 petition by two Israeli citizens who received payment in pounds sterling for a sale of stocks abroad. In obedience to the law, they deposited this money in a local foreign currency account (pauim), whose interest rate was 5% when they opened it and eventually went down to zero.

At the same time, banks abroad were paying 11% on sterling deposits, and even Israeli banks were paying 9% to foreign residents who held sterling.

The reason for this was the Bank of Israel's 100% liquidity requirement on the pauim, which forced banks to deposit the entire sum with the central bank.

Since the Bank of Israel didn't pay local banks any interest on these deposits, the banks would have lost money had they paid interest to their depositors.

The petitioners therefore charged that the Bank of Israel was unfairly making profits at their expense, by "confiscating" their foreign currency and then depositing it banks overseas at a nice interest.

Justices Theodor Ori, Ya'acov Kedmi and Zvi Tal rejected the petition, on the grounds that the central bank did have the legal authority to set any kind of monetary policy it chose.

"[The central bank] has the expertise necessary [for setting policy]... and the court won't substitute its discretion for that of [the Bank of Israel]," Ori wrote.

Furthermore, the justices noted, the central bank does offer an alternative - the petitioners could sell their pounds for shekels and deposit the shekels in an interest-bearing, sterling-linked savings account.

However, both Kedmi and Tal said that by offering a choice between an interest-bearing shekel account and a non-interest-bearing foreign-currency account, the bank was essentially forcing depositors to sell their foreign currency to the Treasury.

Bill punishing delinquent mutual fund trustees okayed

EVELYN GORDON

MUTUAL fund trustees who fail to fulfill their obligations will soon be subject to a range of penalties, according to a bill approved by the Knesset finance committee yesterday.

The bill will now be sent to the plenum for its second and third readings.

The sanctions proposed by the bill range from administrative fines to leaving the trustee open to a class-action suit.

Although trustees are legally obligated even now to supervise their funds' activities carefully, in actual practice they often serve as mere rubber stamps, committee members said.

The committee hopes the imposition of sanctions will significantly reduce this tendency.

The other key provision of the bill requires mutual fund managers to participate in shareholders' meetings of companies in which their funds own shares.

In response to a request by MK Dan Tichon (Likud), head of the Treasury's capital markets division Meir Shavit promised this requirement would be imposed by administrative order on provident fund managers as well.

Shavit also said provident funds would from now on be required to publish quarterly reports in addition to annual reports.

Both of these matters, Shavit said, will eventually be included in a comprehensive provident fund bill, which the Treasury hopes to submit to the Knesset immediately after the summer recess.

Banks told to pass on some fee discounts to customers

JOSE ROSENFELD

COMMERCIAL banks will have to pass on fee discounts to their customers from transactions they perform on their behalf, Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles announced yesterday.

The decision was made following numerous customer complaints that the banks were passing on to them transaction fees the banks were ostensibly paying to a third party, even though in many cases, the banks received substantial discounts or the

fees were waived altogether.

For example, when customers buy foreign stocks through their banks, they are charged a full correspondent or broker's fee, even when the bank does not pay the full fee.

Bank of Israel spokesman Yoav Lehman said the bank was in a quandary about who should benefit from the volume discount.

On the one hand, individuals on their own account would not get the discounts, while the banks, on the other, would not get it without the customers.

The central bank decided to opt for truth in advertising.

"The bank may charge an additional fee if it wants, but then it must

truthfully report the actual fee it pays a third party," Lehman explained.

The intention of the Bank of Israel is that customers have full disclosure on the fees they are charged so that they can make informed decisions, he added.

Abeles also ordered the banks to include in customers' account statements fees collected on behalf of a portfolio manager which manages their investments.

Flower industry celebrates one billionth export this season

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Israel is expected to export 1.055 billion flowers in the 1993/1994 season ending in September. In the 1992/93 season, Israel exported 980 million flowers.

Flower Board manager Jacob Seton said the country has 2,500 flower growers and uses 18,000 dunams to grow flowers.

He said growers invest about NIS 100m. every year in development of the sector, including new

varieties and growth technologies. Seton said the board exports flowers all year round.

"The market is experiencing a breakthrough," Seton said. "There are about 20 new varieties of plants which have entered the market during the last few years. I expect exports to reach about \$2b. within three years."

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur praised the flower growers' accomplishments this year.

"The flower sector is a leader among Israeli exports," Tsur said. "The market's performance demonstrates its ability to take advantage of new production technologies and produce high-quality flowers."

He said the sector has to concentrate on a number of goals, including production of new varieties of plants, expansion of markets, investments in research and development and new technologies.

Tsur called on the European Community to speed up the trade agreement it has with Israel.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.7.94)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.000	4.500	5.000	
German mark (\$100,000)	3.875	4.375	4.875	
Japanese yen (\$100,000)	3.875	4.375	4.875	
Swiss franc (\$200,000)	3.875	4.375	4.875	
Yen (10 million yen)	0.800	0.800	0.700	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (11.7.94)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Bank
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.3740	3.3740	3.3740	3.3740
German mark	3.0222	2.93	3.07	3.0222
French franc	1.9504	1.89	1.96	1.9512
Japanese yen (100)	4.6489	4.58	4.70	4.6489
Swiss franc	0.5879	0.58	0.59	0.5879
Dutch guilder	3.0489	3.0489	3.14	3.0489
Swedish krona	2.2826	2.2529	2.29	2.2826
Norwegian krona	0.4379	0.4379	0.44	0.4379
Danish krone	0.4888	0.4887	0.48	0.4888
Finland mark	0.5809	0.5809	0.57	0.5809
Canadian dollar	2.1482	2.1736	2.11	2.1482
Australian dollar	2.1746	2.2033	2.14	2.1746
S. African rand	0.8142	0.8257	0.84	0.8142
British pound (£10)	0.8315	0.8450	0.82	0.8315
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7655	2.7742	2.69	2.7655
Italian lire (1000)	1.5328	1.5328	1.50	1.5328
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.19	4.19
Spanish peseta (100)	3.8774	3.7294	0.85	3.8774
Irish punt	4.5996	4.6648	4.49	4.5996
Spanish peseta (100)	2.6288	2.6667	2.26	2.6288

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 3.0020	-0.43%
Sterling	NIS 4.6695	+0.63%
Mark	NIS 1.9312	+0.63%

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Index	Last	Change
DJ Industrial	5702.80	+15.15
DJ 30	1023.77	+1.23
NASDAQ	252.19	+0.15
S&P 500	1023.77	+1.23
NYSE	1023.77	+1.23
AMEX	1023.77	+1.23

Other stock market indexes

Index	Last	Change
FTSE 100	2893.4	+1.4
Nikkei 225	14,000.0	+100.0
Hong Kong	10,000.0	+100.0

Israeli stocks in NY

Symbol	Last	Change
TEL AVIV	1023.77	+1.23
BEIRUT	1023.77	+1.23
HAIFA	1023.77	+1.23
RAFAH	1023.77	+1.23
NETANIM	1023.77	+1.23
YERUSALEM	1023.77	+1.23
TEL AVIV	1023.77	+1.23
BEIRUT	1023.77	+1.23
HAIFA	1023.77	+1.23
RAFAH	1023.77	+1.23
NETANIM	1023.77	+1.23
YERUSALEM	1023.77	+1.23

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Symbol	Last	Change
London	1023.77	+1.23
Paris	1023.77	+1.23
Frankfurt	1023.77	+1.23
Zurich	1023.77	+1.23
Stockholm	1023.77	+1.23
Copenhagen	1023.77	+1.23
Oslo	1023.77	+1.23
Stockholm	1023.77	+1.23
Copenhagen	1023.77	+1.23
Oslo	1023.77	+1.23

LIBOR RATES

Rate	Last	Change
3 months	4.875	+0.125
6 months	4.875	+0.125
9 months	4.875	+0.125
12 months	4.875	+0.125

Foreign financial data courtesy of

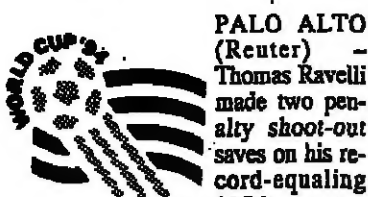
Symbol	Last	Change
London	1023.77	+1.23
Paris	1023.77	+1.23
Frankfurt	1023.77	+1.23
Zurich	1023.77	+1.23
Stockholm	1023.77	+1.23
Copenhagen	1023.77	+1.23
Oslo	1023.77	+1.23
Stockholm	1023.77	+1.23
Copenhagen	1023.77	+1.23
Oslo	1023.77	+1.23

Spot market metals (US)

INT'L COMMODITIES AND METALS			
US commodities			
		Last	Change
corn	Dec	147 1/2	+2 1/2
soybean	Dec	235.25	+4 1/2
rice	Nov	11.47	+0.13
wheat	Dec	130	-1.22
oats	Dec	52 1/2	+1 1/2
barley	Dec	50 1/2	+1 1/2
beans	Dec	80 1/2	+1 1/2
lentils	Dec	10 1/2	+0.5
London commodities			
		Last	Change
oil	Dec	194 1/2	+3 1/2
gas	Dec	3640	+750

Sweden advances after tense shoot-out

Brazil and Sweden have score to settle



PALO ALTO (Reuters) — Thomas Ravelli made two penalty shoot-out saves on his record-equaling 115th appearance for Sweden yesterday to earn his side a place in the semifinals of the World Cup for the first time since 1958.

Sweden, which finished its quarter-final against Romania with 10 men after Stefan Schwarz was sent off in extra time, won 5-4 on penalties after the sides finished 2-2 after extra time.

With the win, Sweden earned itself a semifinal playoff berth against three-time champions Brazil.

The other semifinalists — Bulgaria and three-time champions Italy — will face each other in East Rutherford.

In what ultimately proved to be one of the most dramatic matches of the tournament, fortunes swayed.

Ravelli eventually tipped the balance Sweden's way. His saves from Dan Petrescu and Miodrag Belodedici in the shoot-out gave Sweden victory after Hakan Mild got the penalties under way by blasting the ball high over the Romanian bar.

After saving Belodedici's penalty to clinch the win, Ravelli was embraced by his ecstatic teammates who had seen victory snatched from their grasp a minute from the end of normal time when Florin Raducioiu equalized. Tomas Brodin had put the Swedes ahead in the 79th minute.

Romania was the better side during extra time and looked to have done enough to win when Raducioiu scored his second goal, and his fourth of the tournament, in the 101st minute.

But with just five minutes of extra



ON THE BALL — Sweden's goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli makes the game-winning save during the penalty shoot-out. (Reuters)

time remaining Sweden pulled themselves back from the brink when Kenneth Andersson headed home a speculative cross at the far post.

"It was a bit unprofessional of us not to finish it off in 90 minutes," said Ravelli. "But I knew that if I saved the last penalty we would win. There was no pressure on me, I had everything to win."

The match failed to live up to expectations until almost 10 minutes

from the end of normal time.

Although Romanian skipper Gheorghe Hagi prodded and probed, he could find no way through the Swedish defense. The Romanian backline held firm against some largely ineffective Swedish attacking and unimaginative approach work which consisted largely of long, high balls to the strikers.

Sweden, missing its injured captain and playmaker Jonas Thern, went

close when Martin Dahlin hit a post with a fifth-minute header and again in the 66th minute when Florin Prunea made an outstanding save to tip a Brodin drive over the bar.

But there were few clear-cut chances for either side until Sweden took the lead through Tomas Brodin. His goal came from a free-kick which coach Tommy Svensson revealed afterwards he had rehearsed in secret training during the week.

World Cup at a Glance

(at press time)

QUARTER-FINALS
Sunday's result:
Bulgaria 2, Germany 1 (E. Rutherford)
Sweden 5, Romania 4 (Stanford)
(2-2 after extra time)

SEMIFINALS
Tomorrow/Thursday:
Bulgaria-Italy 22:00 (East Rutherford)
Brazil-Sweden 02:35 (Pasadena)

NEW YORK (AP) — The last time they played, Sweden complained about missing Martin Dahlin. Now they have another chance at Brazil, this time with the "Black Pearl."

Brazil and Sweden's World Cup semifinal clash Thursday at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, will answer a few questions: Was Brazil taking it easy in the first-round finale? How much did Dahlin's yellow-card suspension hurt Sweden?

Another question will be answered tomorrow: Is Bulgaria for real? That is, if the issue wasn't settled Sunday when the Bulgarians rallied from a goal down to stun defending champion Germany 2-1.

Bulgaria will face the third former or reigning world champion in its past four games when it takes on Italy at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

The Bulgarians have beaten Argentina and Germany, the 1990 and 1986 champions. Italy last won the title in 1982.

Sweden and Brazil have a score to settle, or at least resolve the issue for their fans.

When the two met on June 28 in the Pontiac, Michigan, Silverdome, Brazil only needed a draw to win the group. Sweden was missing its biggest scoring threat, Dahlin, out because of a second yellow card received a game earlier.

Both had excuses for not winning. Tomorrow, Brazil will again be without defender Leonardo, serving the second of his four-game suspension for tossing an elbow at fractured US midfielder Tab Ramos's skull.

Sweden will be without defender Stefan Schwarz, who picked up a second yellow against Romania in the

quarter-finals Sunday.

The game will give Sweden a chance to avenge its loss in the 1958 final in Stockholm, the last time the Swedes advanced this far in the World Cup.

Some of Sweden's squad feels this will be the country's best shot at winning the title for a long time.

"I've never played on a better Swedish team and I doubt Sweden will ever have a side like this one again," midfielder Klas Ingesson said. "We can beat all teams that are left in the tournament. Tying Brazil gave us so much confidence."

Brazil still is looking like the strongest team in the tournament. Leading 2-0, it let the Netherlands draw even before scoring the game winner in their quarter-final.

Italy, despite Bulgaria's upset 2-1 win over defending titlist Germany, enters their semifinal as a strong favorite — just as the Germans did in the quarters.

But Bulgaria isn't too worried about having to earn respect all over again.

"I think since we're going to the semifinals, everyone will look at our team in a very different way," Bulgarian coach Dimitar Penev said.

Differently, but not reverently the way much of the soccer world views Italy.

Hristo Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov already have earned a large measure of respect by helping or leading FC Barcelona and FC Porto to Spanish and Portuguese league titles. Now they want to do the same for Bulgaria as a nation.

"I think the world will realize that we have some very classy soccer players in Bulgaria," Stoichkov said.

AL favored in All-Star game as baseball strike looms closer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Baseball's big names — Griffey Jr., Thomas, Bonds, Bagwell — are ready to party in Pittsburgh.

As baseball interrupts one of its best seasons in years for its annual mid-July respite, a troubling, persistent question hovers over this 65th All-Star game: Is this a farewell party?

For the first time since a titanic homer by 39-year-old Babe Ruth inaugurated the first midsummer classic in 1933, the specter of a season-ending strike hangs over the All-Star game like a badly thrown slider.

The All-Star game usually is a time to look back on past games — Pete Rose's head-on collision with Ray Fosse in 1970 and Reggie Jackson's monster homer in '71.

The three-day All-Star break also is traditionally a time to look ahead, to the second half of the season when division titles and MVP awards will be won and lost.

The executive board of the Major League Baseball Players Association met yesterday, and not to divvy up licensing money. A strike date may not be set, but the mechanism for a season-stopping shutdown surely will be put into motion.

"I don't see how there won't be a strike," the Pirates' Andy Van Slyke said. "The owners want a salary cap, and there will be peace in the Middle East before the players accept a salary cap. And there hasn't been peace in the Middle East in 2,000 years."

There have been seven prior work stoppages in baseball, four of them strikes, but only one (1985) was after the All-Star game, and it was settled with little rancor in two days.

This almost-certain strike — with the players unwilling to give up their past negotiating successes, the owners refusing to accept anything less than a radical reshaping of baseball's finances — promises to be much longer. August 15 and September 1 are the potential strike dates most mentioned.

Maybe this All-Star game shouldn't be billed as the American League vs. the National League but the Players vs. the Owners, Donald Fehr vs. Richard Ravitch.

The last time the All-Star game dropped by cavernous, conventional Three Rivers Stadium in 1974, there were 10,000 unseated seats a month before the game and the workout day was a private affair, with only the media attending.

Then, the National League was all powerful, and was in the midst of winning 19 of 20 All-Star games. Now, the American League has most

of the stars — Ken Griffey Jr., Frank Thomas, Cal Ripken, Kenny Lofton, Albert Belle, Kirby Puckett — and, not surprisingly, a six-game winning streak.

Of the 11 homers hit in the last six All-Star games, all but three were by the AL's young batters. So if it's the All-Star game, how come the AL has all the stars?

The AL is so loaded that Jose Canseco and Julio Franco, who would rank near the top of the NL in RBIs,

didn't even make the AL team because of the rule that every franchise must be represented.

Jeff Bagwell of the Houston Astros is having a monster year and is threatening to win the NL triple crown, yet none of his numbers (.352, 26 homers, 77 RBIs) would lead the AL.

"I don't put myself into the category of a Ken Griffey Jr. or a Frank Thomas," he said. "I'm just Jeff Bagwell, and I'm having a good first half. There's still a long way to go."

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

National League
BATTING — T.Gwynn, San Diego, .383; Morris, Cincinnati, .355; Bagwell, Houston, .348; Justice, Atlanta, .344; Alou, Montreal, .331; Jefferey, St. Louis, .330; Piazza, Los Angeles, .325.

RBIs — Bagwell, Houston, 74; Griffey, Montreal, 73; Galaraga, Colorado, 65; Lankford, St. Louis, 65; Biggio, Houston, 65; Alou, Montreal, 65; Rikelly, Atlanta, 61; T.Gwynn, San Diego, 61.

RBIs — Bagwell, Houston, 82; Bichette, Colorado, 77; Piazza, Los Angeles, 76; Galaraga, Colorado, 75; McWilliams, San Francisco, 68; Morris, Cincinnati, 67; L.Walker, Montreal, 65.

HITS — Morris, Cincinnati, 120; T.Gwynn, San Diego, 118; Galaraga, Colorado, 114; Bichette, Colorado, 113; Morales, Los Angeles, 108; Biggio, Houston, 108; Bagwell, Houston, 106; Corbin, Florida, 106; Alou, Montreal, 106.

HOME RUNS — McWilliams, San Francisco, 35; Bagwell, Houston, 27; Galaraga, Colorado, 25; Bonds, San Francisco, 23; McGriff, Atlanta, 23; Piazza, Los Angeles, 21; Bichette, Colorado, 21; Mitchell, Cincinnati, 21.

STOLEN BASES — D.Benders, Cincinnati, 32; Griffey, Montreal, 30; Canseco, Florida, 25; Biggio, Houston, 25; Mouton, Houston, 22; D.Lewis, San Francisco, 22; Lankford, Cincinnati, 21.

PITCHING (10 Decisions) — K.Hill, Montreal, 13-0, 5.12, 3.27; D.Jackson, Philadelphia, 11-3, 7.95, 3.85; Sabersberger, New York, 10-4, 7.14, 3.15; G.Maddux, Atlanta, 11-5, .887, 1.80; Nield, Colorado, 8-4, .887, 4.52; Drahok, Houston, 10-8, .887, 3.07; Rifo, Cincinnati, 8-4, .887, 3.08.

STRIKEOUTS — Barnes, San Diego, 138; Rifo, Cincinnati, 122; G.Maddux, Atlanta, 118; Passaro, Montreal, 112; Glavin, Atlanta, 111; P.J.Martinez, Montreal, 108; Seberhus, St. Louis, 104.

SAVES — D.Jones, Philadelphia, 21; Franco, New York, 19; McMichael, Atlanta, 18; Beck, San Francisco, 18; Myers, Chicago, 17; Huque, Houston, 15; Rojas, Montreal, 15.

East Division
W L Pct. GB
Montreal 54 33 .621
Atlanta 52 35 .598
Philadelphia 41 47 .464
New York 40 47 .460

Central Division
W L Pct. GB
Cincinnati 52 35 .598
St. Louis 50 37 .574
Pittsburgh 41 46 .477
Chicago 35 53 .400

West Division
W L Pct. GB
Los Angeles 48 46 .511
Colorado 48 46 .511
San Francisco 38 56 .404
San Diego 35 54 .393

American League
BATTING — Thomas, Chicago, .383; O'Neil, New York, .382; Lofton, Cleveland, .378; Belle, Cleveland, .357; W.Clarke, Texas, .353; Molitor, Toronto, .345; C.Davis, California, .340.

RBIs — Thomas, Chicago, 93; Lofton, Cleveland, 82; Canseco, Texas, 78; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 72; Belle, Cleveland, 70; Phillips, Detroit, 70; George, Cleveland, 68.

RBIs — Puckett, Minnesota, 81; Carter, Toronto, 80; Thomas, Chicago, 78; W.Clarke, Texas, 78; Belle, Cleveland, 76; Franco, Chicago, 76; Sierra, Oakland, 75; Canseco, Texas, 74.

HITS — Lofton, Cleveland, 120; Thomas, Chicago, 116; Belle, Cleveland, 116; Molitor, Toronto, 116; George, Cleveland, 111; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 111; Palmeiro, Baltimore, 108; Puckett, Minnesota, 108.

HOME RUNS — Griffey Jr., Seattle, 33; Thomas, Chicago, 32; Belle, Cleveland, 25; Canseco, Texas, 24; Vaughn, Boston, 21; Fielder, Detroit, 21; Selmon, California, 19; Sierra, Oakland, 18; Carter, Toronto, 18.

STOLEN BASES — Lofton, Cleveland, 45; Colman, Kansas City, 45; Nolon, Boston, 44; Knechtel, Minnesota, 27; S.Anderson, Baltimore, 23; L.Johnson, Chicago, 23; McRae, Kansas City, 21; Javier, Oakland, 21.

PITCHING (10 Decisions) — Koy, New York, 13-2, .887, 2.31; B.Cotton, St. Louis, 12-1, 3.56; M.Clarke, Cleveland, 10-3, 7.09, 3.71; Mussina, Baltimore, 13-4, 7.95, 2.96; Cone, Kansas City, 12-4, 7.50, 2.88; Sanderson, Chicago, 8-3, 7.27, 4.21; Alvarez, Chicago, 10-4, 7.14, 3.83; Ruffalo, Seattle, 10-4, 7.14, 3.83; Rogers, Texas, 10-4, 7.14, 4.33.

STRIKEOUTS — Ruffalo, Seattle, 150; Clemens, Boston, 131; Finley, California, 120; Hershiser, Toronto, 112; Apple, Kansas City, 105; Guzman, Toronto, 95; Gordon, Kansas City, 95.

SAVES — L.Smith, Baltimore, 28; Aguilera, Minnesota, 19; Eckersley, Oakland, 13; Montgomery, Kansas City, 14; Ayala, Seattle, 13; Russell, Cleveland, 13; Grafe, California, 12.

East Division
W L Pct. GB
New York 50 36 .583
Baltimore 49 37 .569
Boston 48 38 .561
Detroit 46 40 .537
Toronto 38 46 .451

Central Division
W L Pct. GB
Cleveland 51 35 .593
Chicago 50 36 .581
Kansas City 45 42 .517
Minnesota 42 44 .488
Milwaukee 38 48 .442

West Division
W L Pct. GB
Texas 48 46 .511
Oakland 38 48 .442
California 38 51 .429
Seattle 37 50 .425

Germany: Yesterday's heroes

EAST RUTHERFORD (Reuters) — The heroes of 1990 succumbed to Bulgaria on Sunday, shattering German dreams of winning the World Cup a record fourth time.

While Brazil and Italy remain in the running for an unprecedented fourth triumph, the Germans return home with calls for resignation and change inevitable in a land where soccer expectations could not be higher.

For the first time since 1978, when defending champions West Germany fell in the second round, Germany will not be contesting the World Cup final.

Winners in 1954, 1974 and 1990, the Germans were also runners-up in 1966, 1982 and 1986 and semifinalists a further three times, so this quarter-final elimination rates as a big disappointment.

Trapped by an insatiable demand for success, Berti Vogts has failed to deliver the big prizes since taking over from Franz Beckenbauer after the 1990 World Cup victory.

Kaiser Franz, captain in 1974 when Vogts was a terror-like defender, said in a jocular vein after piloting West Germany to triumph in Rome four years ago that newly united Germany would be invincible.

But Vogts, unlike the majestically imperturbable Beckenbauer, has found success more elusive. Against all the odds, Denmark beat them in the 1992 European championship final in Sweden and now Bulgaria has ended the 1994 World Cup dream.

The squad was packed with experience, with captain Lothar Matthaus extending his record to 117 caps and 10 other members of the 22 having more than 50 international appearances to their credit. Nine of the starting line-up against Bulgaria were in the 1990 World Cup squad.

But, with their leading lights in their late 20s or early 30s, they were not the dominating force of old, while Vogts drew criticism as well as applause for his decision to send home midfielder Stefan Effenberg for rudely gesturing to fans in the first-round game against South Korea.

South Korea, three goals down, pulled back to 3-2 and showed the Germans were vulnerable. Belgium, denied a flagrant penalty, also finished the stronger in a 3-2 defeat in the second round; and then Bulgaria turned a 1-0 deficit into a 2-1 victory.

Asked if he would now resign, Vogts said he was not surprised by the question because there had been plenty of speculation. He said he would consider his future calmly but had always felt he would go on as long as he enjoyed working with the players.

Several of the side may now decide the time has come to call it a day, though goalkeeper Bodo Illgner and striker Rudi Voeller, who was persuaded to make an international comeback for the World Cup, were the only players to say straight away they would definitely quit the national side.

Ironically, only two of the starting line-up on Sunday were younger than 27-year-old Illgner, while Voeller is 34 and Mathaus, Guido Buckwald and substitute Andreas Brehme — scorer of the penalty which won the 1990 final against Argentina — 33.

Mathaus, who had just equaled the record of fellow German Uwe Seeler, Poland's Wladyslaw Zmuda and Diego Maradona of 21 games in World Cup finals, said there were aspects of the campaign which had not suited him and he would discuss the future with the German Football Federation after some holiday.

Defender Jurgen Kohler, who rightly felt he had done a good marking job on Bulgarian dangerman Hristo Stoichkov, pledged to continue to the 1996 European championship in England, leaving the disappointment of this World Cup behind.

"You can't be satisfied but that's football. You win together and you lose together. It's a difficult moment for us players but we must look forward," he said.

Vogts, too, was already looking ahead to 1996 with any rebuilding the team might need.

Illgner, though leaving the scene himself, puts his faith in German resilience. "It is not the end of the German era," he said.

Indian tennis delegation arrives

GOODWILL was the focus of a visit this week by a London-based Indian delegation of the International Lawn Tennis Club.

This visit is the first time Israel hosts a fellow member since joining the club in 1984.

The International Club (IC), founded in 1920, aims to foster good ties among its 27 member states through tennis and this visit coincides with an era of diplomatic reawakening between the nations.

For a country that just six years ago withdrew from the Davis Cup tie

HEATHER CHAIT

scheduled for Ramat Hasharon due to self-professed reasons of security which led to their suspension from the tournament for 1989, times have patently changed.

"Our purpose is to promote tennis across the world," explained the spirited Ravi Khatpalia, financial adviser to the Indian government and vice president of the Indian IC, adding that since India and Israel have only recently restored diplomatic ties after 40 years, "the significance of this trip

goes beyond the tennis courts."

"This is a goodwill tournament," said Khatpalia. "Indians have a tremendous respect for the tradition of Israeli culture and heritage and we are anxious to further good relations."

The contingent, seven players and three wives, includes ex-Davis Cup players Balram Singh and Shyam Minotra, whose 18-year-old son, Saurav, represents the new blood in the squad.

After fixtures in Ramat Hasharon and Jerusalem, the visitors are down 2-0 with their final clash in Haifa.

Maradona fan sues FIFA boss

DHAKA (Reuters) — A Bangladeshi fan of disgraced Argentine football star Diego Maradona has sued FIFA President Jose Havelange charging he illegally expelled the soccer wizard from the World Cup tournament.

The plaintiff, Anwarul Wadud, a lawyer, lodged a case against Havelange in a Dhaka court on Sunday, saying FIFA's decision was "undesirable and an undecidable sad news."

"Havelange must be held responsible for FIFA's decision, which not only upset soccer wizard Maradona mentally but also caused him to suffer professionally and financially," Wadud said.

FIFA expelled Maradona from the World Cup for taking banned drugs. "The illegal and wrong decision... caused him illness and physical losses for which he must be compensated," the plaintiff said.

Court officials said they had not sent a notice to Havelange yet nor set a date for the hearing.

Fogelson finishes first in golf

STEVE WEIL

FOR the third time in only six weeks, Richard Fogelson has taken first place in the Friday golf competition at Caesars.

In partnership with Max Shapiro, Mark Joffe and regular playing partner Leslie Ben Amir, Fogelson led the field home in an Alliance Stableford. With the best two scores counting, the winning team scored 88 stableford points.

Second place was taken by the team of Shuki Tzadikian, Zvi Schar, Jules Curnek and Anna Weltman with 83 points.

The team of Fred Reifenberg, Gerry Cooper, Nathan Kausky and Miron Weinberg took third with 82 points.

Indurain one to beat in Tour de France

BERGERAC, France (Reuters) — Miguel Indurain had the perfect answer yesterday to those who predicted his decline, with a devastating performance against the clock bringing him a step closer to another Tour de France triumph.

The Spaniard, aiming to join all time greats Jacques Anquetil and Eddy Merckx with a fourth consecutive win, was back at his brilliant best in the race's ninth stage, a demanding, 64-km time trial.

Indurain scorched through the vineyards of the Perigord region from Perigueux to win the stage, with nearest rival Tony Rominger of Switzerland trailing by exactly two minutes.

Just as last year in Madine and in 1992 in Luxembourg, Indurain used the Tour's traditional first test to take a commanding position before the mountains, where he will be able to control the race while his opponents will need to attack.

Rominger had meanwhile warmed up for the Tour in style by winning a record third Tour de Spain and many thought the days of an unstoppable Indurain in the world's greatest cycle race might be over.

But the machine man of old was back yesterday, beating all his rivals out of sight after just nine days racing.

Even Rominger, who exploded the myth of Indurain's invincibility against the clock by beating him in the second time trial of last year's Tour, could not match Indurain, who looked effortless despite stifling heat.

"I felt good and I gave it all I had, but Miguel is just stronger than I am and all I can do is accept it," said Rominger whose only choice left is to attack in the high climbs and pray for Indurain to have a moment of weakness.

"I'm probably a bit stronger than he is in the mountains and we'll see what happens there, but he looks very good and it will be tough," said Rominger.

Of all the candidates for victory at the Paris finish on July 24, only Rominger looks like still standing a chance of threatening Indurain, who will be handicapped by his heavy frame in the strenuous stages of the Pyrenees and Alps.

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GENERAL

DWELLINGS

WHERE TO STAY

Ramon says Histadrut won't buy controlling share of Bank Hapoalim

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT Secretary-General Haim Ramon yesterday informed the directors of the Histadrut's Hevrat Ha'Ovdim that the Histadrut would not try to buy control of Bank Hapoalim.

The decision reverses the stated intentions of the previous Histadrut leadership to buy the bank. At a meeting with the directors of Hevrat Ha'Ovdim in his Knesset office yesterday, Ramon said the Histadrut does not need a bank.

He also told them that Hevrat Ha'Ovdim would now be operated as a holding company, which would be

less involved with the everyday management of its constituent companies, and concentrate instead on its investment policy.

He said that all the Histadrut's properties and assets will be managed in the framework of the holding company, which will ensure that these assets produce returns that will be directed to social causes determined by the Histadrut's executive bureau.

The plans and corporations of the holding company will no longer work exclusively with Bank Hapoalim, Ra-

mon continued. The bank, for its part, is to deal with the companies as they would with any other clients.

Ramon warned the directors that he would not tolerate any political activity in Hevrat Ha'Ovdim facilities during work hours, and that this ban applies to all ranks of workers, including directors and managers.

Earlier this week, Ramon canceled the monopoly of the Histadrut pension funds, stating that anyone meeting the criteria which the Histadrut

leadership would set, would be able to offer pension coverage to organized workers. Until now, all workers covered by a collective wage agreement had to belong to one of the Histadrut pension funds.

Ramon yesterday canceled all the newspaper subscriptions for workers at Histadrut headquarters, except for the members of the executive bureau, the secretary-general and his spokeswoman. Ramon's spokeswoman, Mira Geshel, said that the Histadrut was paying half a million shekels a year for hundreds of daily newspapers.

Yi'ud raises more demands in new round of coalition talks

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Labor Party and Yi'ud resumed negotiations last night in an effort to reach an agreement which would enable the maverick faction to join the government.

However, due to last-minute new demands raised by Yi'ud, the talks were not expected to conclude last night and will probably continue for a few more days.

If Yi'ud enters the coalition, Shas is expected to do so as well, following last week's agreement between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Shas leader Aryeh Deri that Shas will join the coalition before the Knesset's summer recess.

The Labor-Yi'ud negotiations were delayed last week because of MK Esther Salimovitz's demands for a written commitment from Rabin concerning the Golan issue and real action by the government to prove its attitude towards the settlers has changed as a condition for entering the coalition.

Since Labor rejected Salimovitz's demands, the party's leadership agreed to accept Yi'ud even if only two of Yi'ud's three members - MKs Gonen Segev and Alex Goldfarb -

entered the government. In that case, Salimovitz will officially be a part of the coalition but will not receive any senior position.

However, Yi'ud would then have to give up its demand for a deputy minister in addition to the minister's portfolio already promised to Segev. Goldfarb agreed last week to receive, instead of a deputy minister's position, the chair of one of the Knesset committees as well as membership in the foreign affairs and defense committee.

Following immense pressure by Golan settlers and other groups on Yi'ud members, the faction yesterday raised a list of new demands, including the cancellation of the Palestinian Covenant as a condition for continuing the peace process, opening some 3,500 empty apartments in the settlements for housing, paving new roads in Judea and Samaria, building fences around settlements, and renewing public and industrial construction there.

They also insisted that there be no withdrawal from the Golan or uprooting of settlements and that Israeli sovereignty be preserved there.

Hearings completed on legal validity of Reform conversions

HAIM SHAPIRO

SITTING in a rare panel of seven justices, the High Court of Justice yesterday heard the final arguments in a case relating to the legal validity of Reform conversions carried out in Israel.

The petitioner, Eva (Elainy) Goldstein, who had been raised as a Christian in Brazil, came to Israel in 1990. During that year she married Uri Goldstein, an immigrant from Brazil, at the consular section of the Brazilian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Because Eva was a non-Jew and Uri a Jew, the Interior Ministry refused to register the marriage; the High Court declared the marriage valid only 12 days ago, in response to a separate petition, which focused on the right of a foreign consul to perform marriages for its nationals here. In 1991, Goldstein was converted to Judaism by a rabbinical court of the (Reform) Movement for Progressive Judaism, but the head of the Interior Ministry's population registry refused to recognize her as an immigrant or to register her as Jewish in the population registry.

Several High Court rulings since 1986 have made it clear that anyone converted abroad by non-Orthodox rabbis must be registered as Jews under the Law of Return, but the decisions fell short of recognizing conversions in Israel by non-Orthodox rabbis.

Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Israel Religious Action Committee (IRAC) of the Reform movement, represented the petitioner, whose petition was also brought in the name of the Association for Civil Rights in

Israel (ACRI).

Regev said there was no law in Israel defining conversion or specifying who was authorized to carry out a conversion. In view of the fact that officials are presently required to recognize conversions carried out by Reform rabbis abroad, there is no reason why they should not recognize those carried out in Israel, he argued.

Representing the state, attorney Nili Arad cited the British mandatory regulation of 1922 under which official announcements of change of religion were to be made by the heads of the religious communities. The chief rabbis were the heads of the Jewish religious community, she said.

Arad added that if other conversions were recognized, there was a danger that tourists coming to Israel would seek conversion by non-Orthodox rabbis, and then acquire the rights of new immigrants.

Regev replied that while the authorization of the Chief Rabbinate might be necessary for recognition as a Jew for matters of personal status, this did not apply to the Law of Return, which does not differentiate between different types of conversion. Indeed, he pointed out, there have been several attempts to limit the recognition of the Law of Return to Orthodox conversion and they had failed.

Regev said that thousands of people who wish to become part of the Jewish people were seeking an alternative to the Chief Rabbinate that was more in keeping with their religious outlook.

The court did not set a date for its ruling.

Milo sets up arts council

HELEN KAYE

TEL AVIV Mayor Roni Milo yesterday announced the establishment of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Arts Council to advise the city on its overall arts policies.

"We have a council which is pluralistic, independent, diverse and apolitical," said Milo. "We want to involve everybody in the processes and consolidation of our arts programs."

Milo will chair the broadly-based 76-member voluntary body which is divided into seven committees, six of them comprising professionals from the various arts, including cinema, rock music and even light entertainment. The seventh is a public committee.

The council will help establish principles, criteria and procedures for city support of various arts projects, supervise special projects and identify artists and arts activities which need encouragement.

The municipality's total arts/culture budget for 1994 is NIS 88.25 million of which NIS 59.45m. goes to the arts division and NIS 28.8m. is for cultural activities.

Milo also announced plans for a Tel Aviv-Jaffa fall festival "to signify the centrality of Tel Aviv-Jaffa." Nothing has yet been finalized and Milo could not answer questions on funding for the festival.

It has also been announced that the municipality will appoint a special committee to draft plans to ensure the future of the troubled Israel Chamber Orchestra.

"The emphasis will be on restructuring and continuity," said municipality cultural department head Mordechai Vishnitsky. "We do not want to disband a body with such proven ability."

Ruling postponed on IDF benefits for surviving homosexual mate

RAINE MARCUS

THE Tel Aviv Magistrates Court postponed until next February a decision yesterday on whether to grant an IDF officer's male partner survivor's rights, following the officer's death.

Adir Steiner, had lived with Col. Doron Meisels, who served as a medical officer before he died of cancer three years ago. Steiner is suing the Ministry of Defense to recognize him as an army widower.

An IDF representative said in court that the Defense Ministry did not know that the pair had lived together as a couple. At the moment, said the representative, survivor's benefits are only granted to heterosexual couples.

In postponing the decision until next February, Judge Gershon Gorman said that Steiner and the Defense Ministry should try to reach an agreement regarding the former's rights. Gorman is reportedly also waiting for a Supreme Court ruling on a similar case involving the partner of a former El Al employee.

Following the hearing, Steiner said that Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin could prove his case, "with a little effort." "Rabin can solve the problem," said Steiner. "He signed Meisels' appointment in 1977 and was aware of his sexual tendencies."

TA cyclist remanded for molesting women

RAINE MARCUS

A CYCLIST who allegedly molested some 40 women while riding around Tel Aviv was remanded for eight days in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday.

Golan Hassidian, 20, was arrested in the city's beachfront area after a young woman complained to police. She said she had been strolling with her friend down the promenade when the suspect, riding his bicycle, put his hand up her skirt.

Over the past few days, police have received similar complaints from several women. Under questioning, Hassidian admitted to molesting 40 such women, but most did not file a complaint with police.

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General strike declared in 59 development towns

AMIR ROZENBLIT and LIAT COLLINS

THE heads of 59 development towns who launched a general strike yesterday to protest the lack of government aid are planning to step up their sanctions.

"The struggle of the settlers' in the territories is nothing compared to the steps we will take," said Dimona Mayor Gaby Lalouche, chairman of the Development Towns' Forum and head of the strike committee.

The mayors and local council heads plan to set up a protest tent opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem tomorrow. Beginning Sunday, they will shut down emergency and sanitation systems in the towns, and will organize a mass demonstration in Jerusalem of town residents who will be bused to the capital.

The heads of several towns went to Jerusalem yesterday to discuss their plight at the Interior Ministry. Acting Interior Minister and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin did not meet with them, but the council heads did hold talks with Ministry Director-General Amram Kalaji.

The Development Towns' Forum claims the government has not forwarded the grants it promised and has even placed additional burdens on the struggling councils, particularly in the fields of education and social welfare.

"We are fighting for the standing of the development towns and for appropriate government funding to increase employment, education and improve the quality of life," Lalouche said after the meeting, noting that his town had difficulty meeting the needs of some 8,000 immigrants absorbed there and some 2,000 Black Hebrews whose needs he said are not covered by government funding.

Kiryat Shmona Mayor Prosper Azran called on the government to stick to its electoral promise of a new social agenda.

Azran said each of the smaller local authorities needs an average of NIS 15 million in emergency aid. "That's not much. That's just to survive until better days, not to expand. It's to tide us over until we see the much promised national development," Azran told an Israel Radio reporter.

Although several of the council heads leading the campaign are identified with the Likud, they deny that the sanctions are politically motivated, claiming that they were taken out of real economic distress.

"We are planning on stepping up the struggle, and what's interesting is that this demand is coming from leaders of towns who are from Labor," Lalouche, from the Likud, said.

Interior Ministry officials, however, said they were surprised by the move as in the last few days NIS 300 million had been transferred to the local authorities.



Arm raised, lead vocalist Steven Tyler poses with Aerosmith mates before the big concert in TA tonight. (Hanoah Gritsky/Israel Sun)

Aerosmith band ready to rock at Hayarkon Park

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

THE rock band Aerosmith, anticipating tonight's concert in Hayarkon Park, said yesterday they were looking forward to playing before an Israeli audience for the first time, as well as going to see "old stuff" in Jerusalem.

The Tel Aviv show is the final stop on the band's lengthy European tour, but the group members seemed far from exhausted at a press conference yesterday at the Tel Aviv Hilton.

"We think of this as being in Israel for the first time, as opposed to it being the last leg of the tour," said guitarist Joe Perry.

The group was greeted by enthusiastic fans bearing flowers and demanding autographs. Aerosmith, a 23-year-old band whose earliest hits were on the charts in the early 1970's, are enjoying a second wave of success thanks to a series of innovative videos on MTV, which feature electronic contortions in cyberspace and virtual reality.

The band's visit to Israel follows in

the footsteps of supergroups Guns and Roses and Metallica, who played Hayarkon Park last summer. These bands recommended the venue to Aerosmith, but warned them to "watch out for the photographers," according to lead singer Steven Tyler.

The shaggy-haired Tyler, in tight, mesh shirt and multiple necklaces, belied his middle age. He said that during his treadmill workout yesterday, he requested some Israeli rock cassettes in order to sample the local culture. "I like it, the music rocked. I don't know the language, it goes something like this," said Tyler, letting loose with a string of guttural sounds. "But the great thing with rock is that the language doesn't matter, it's all in the attitude."

Like other visiting rock emissaries, the band planned a day of sightseeing in Jerusalem, before their 8:30 p.m. concert at the park. "We like old stuff," said bassist Tom Hamilton, "and as far as old stuff goes, we hear you can't get much better than here."

Turtle interrupts beach blanket cuddle

LIAT COLLINS

A COUPLE cuddling on a Haifa beach were scared off the shore by what they described as "a giant body which came out of the sea." The intruder was later found to be a sea turtle which had come ashore to lay eggs.

The two Russian immigrants retreated from the intruder "which did something in the sand, covered it and went back to the sea." After several panicked telephone calls, the couple were given the number of the night guard of the Nahal Me'arot nature reserve. From the description, he deduced that the night visitor was a turtle and met with the couple yesterday morning to find the clutch of eggs.

Five meters from where the unfortunate lovers had been disturbed, the Nature Reserves Authority warden found a clutch of 62 eggs, which have been moved to the Adit beach reserve, where they can be protected until they hatch. This is the 23rd clutch discovered this year, a record for the season.

Immigration from CIS went up in June

More Jews from the CIS immigrated here in June than during the same month last year, acting Jewish Agency chairman Yehiel Leket announced yesterday. Some 5,000 Jews are expected to arrive here by the end of this month, compared with 4,600 during July 1993, Leket noted.

Three suspects deny any part in nightclub slaying of teen

RAINE MARCUS

THREE men suspected of the murder of 19-year-old Oshik Znanashvili early Saturday morning were remanded for 10 days in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday. All three suspects deny any connection to the killing.

Znanashvili was stabbed to death outside a Jaffa nightclub following a brawl between rival gangs. Three men were arrested following the murder, but they are not cooperating with police.

Detectives investigating the murder believe that 20-year-old Shlomo Basson fatally stabbed Znanashvili in the back and leg. Znanashvili had punched him in the face just as Basson was about to drive away from the El Mundo club. According to allegations, Basson got out of the car and knifed Znanashvili to death before fleeing with his friends, but he claims

he was not involved in the fight. "My client is prepared to undergo any examination, including a polygraph," said defense lawyer Moshe Aloni.

Yaron Ben-Hamo and Kobi Zino were arrested later Saturday morning together with Basson, after police traced the vehicle's license plates.

Ben-Hamo and Zino, both 19, are suspected of being accomplices, but police refused to say in court what part each allegedly played in the killing. Zino denied he was in the car with the others and is refusing to answer questions, said police.

In remanding the three, Judge Hayuta Cohen said they had tried to disrupt the investigation. "This case is complicated and the police must be allocated time to investigate thoroughly," said Cohen.

Trans-Israel Highway goes to cabinet vote

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE ministerial committee on legislation yesterday completed its work on its proposed Trans-Israel Highway law, and asked the cabinet to approve it at its next meeting so that it could be submitted to the Knesset for a first reading before the summer recess.

The committee accepted the recommendation of an interministerial committee to establish a special committee to deal with expropriated land.

Any offer accepted by the landowner will have to be paid within 30 days. If the landowner refuses to accept the sum offered, he can appeal to the Jerusalem District Court. If the land represents a substantial portion of the owner's or lessee's holdings, compensation may be paid at a different location.

Calvin and Hobbes

BY BILL WATTERSON



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